

Sellafield told to clean up in twelve months

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

British Nuclear Fuels has been given 12 months to make changes to its nuclear waste reprocessing plant at Sellafield, in Cumbria.

The company was told yesterday by the Health and Safety Executive that unless the modifications were made the site would be closed.

The demands came in the wake of the publication of the safety audit of Sellafield by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, which criticized BNFL for short-term measures over maintenance of older plant that gave rise to most leaks and exposures of radiation.

Mr John Rimmington, director general of the Safety Executive, said: "These are not recommendations. The changes have been imposed. They will have to be implemented. We intend that they should be carried out without delay."

Last night, the company said the audit was "a helpful contribution to the further improvement of safety at Sellafield."

The range of improvements requested covered management, control and instrumentation, containment, ventilation, decontamination, transfer of radioactive materials, maintenance and staff training.

The investigation began in February after a number of "minor" incidents of leaks and exposures of radiation. Attention centred on five which occurred this year. They involved:

- Discharges of uranium to the Irish Sea on January 23 and 24.

- Release of a radioactive aerosol in the B205 building on February 5.

Safety audit 5
Undue secrecy 5

- Fire in a trench at the waste disposal site at Drigg, adjacent to Sellafield, on February 13.

- Leak of liquid from a cracked pipe carrying effluent on February 18.

- Contamination with plutonium dust in equipment where operators were making plutonium pellets on March 1.

The report concludes that none of the five incidents was capable of significantly affecting the public, though one incident could have had serious consequences for some workers if protective systems had not come into play and prevented escalation.

British Nuclear Fuels said that high priority had been given to the development of new plants, including those to reduce radioactive discharges to the sea, to meet what was seen as the public's main

concern about reprocessing operations at Sellafield.

It accepted that it was timely to deploy more resources on improving the older operating plants on the site, which were under criticism.

Mr Eddie Ryder, the chief nuclear inspector, said: "There is nothing that affects the risks and dangers to the public. The problems we have uncovered largely affect the doses of radiation to workers."

Mr Rimmington said there had been a distinct improvement in the amount of radioactive discharge and in the incidents involving exposures to workers.

He said the policies of the company in improving the plant seemed to be the right ones.

But the priorities had been applied in a way that reduced the attention paid to potentially hazardous parts of the old plant. Some of those did not yet come up to the standard demanded.

There was criticism over delays in the preparation of a fully developed "safety case" for the reprocessing plant.

There was also criticism over a short-term approach to maintenance and to renewal in important parts of the plant, and over inadequacies in instructions and procedures.

Royal pair break new ground at Bond film set



The Princess of Wales smashing a film stunt synthetic sugar glass bottle over the Prince of Wales's head yesterday when they visited Pinewood studios, Buckinghamshire, to see the making of *Living Daylights*, the new James Bond film.

Anderton crusade against Aids

By Ian Smith
Northern Correspondent

Mr James Anderton, lay preacher and Britain's most outspoken chief constable, yesterday launched a moral crusade against Aids. He decried it as the self-inflicted scourge of society.

The new president of the Association of Chief Police Officers and recent convert to catholicism said the spread of Aids in the so-called civilized Western society could be blamed on the increasingly degenerate conduct of the human race and a cesspool of immorality.

Officers from forces throughout the country, who were attending a seminar organized by Greater Manchester police to discuss policies and safeguards to protect officers coming into future contact with Aids carriers, sat stunned as the head of Britain's largest provincial force delivered his surprise sermon.

Mr Anderton told the 160 delegates from 43 forces that because of his personal lifestyle he felt Aids posed no threat to him.

But as a Christian, police officer, husband, father, and lover of the human race who cared about future generations of yet unborn children he sought answers to baffling and bewildering questions.

With a preacher's practised skill Mr Anderton led his audience gently into the subject. Besides those suffering the self-inflicted scourge were many others who were completely innocent victims.

The whole of society, he suggested, must be worried about the disease for social, political, practical and not least of all moral reasons.

Of intense worry were television reports which discussed the possibility of whole generations being wiped out and of entire nations being decimated.

Mr Anderton spoke of Aids as a crippling commentary of twentieth century lifestyle.

"If, as we are told, Aids is for the most part a sexually transmitted disease then it should be easy to stop. But how can it be in the light of current attitudes and behaviour?"

Mr Anderton then launched into the crux of his theme with a zealous fervour.

"Why do homosexuals freely engaged in sodomy and other obnoxious sexual practices knowing the dangers involved?" he asked. "Why is this question not asked of these people?"

"Why do prostitutes, infected or not, ply their trade regardless. Why is that question not asked every day on television?"

"Why do so called happily married men receive the sexual services of prostitutes or

Continued on page 22, col 6

Satellite TV licence for Virgin partners

By Jonathan Miller
Media Correspondent

The Independent Broadcasting Authority yesterday awarded a 15-year franchise to operate Britain's direct broadcasting satellite service to British Satellite Broadcasting, a consortium formed by Granada, the Pearson group (publishers of the *Financial Times*) and Virgin, with Amstrad Consumer Electronics and Anglia Television.

The consortium, BSB, said it planned to start transmitting three new channels by 1990, and would seek additional investors to provide the £500-£600 million finance.

Lord Thomson of Monifieth, IBA chairman, said the project was the first privately financed satellite broadcasting system in the world. If successful, it could create up to 25,000 new jobs over five years.

Mr Andrew Quinn, co-ordinator of BSB, said that four separate programme services will be provided, sharing the three channels available.

One channel devoted entirely to feature films, will be available by subscription for a weekly fee of about £2.50, and BSB said it plans to participate directly in the production of 12 feature films a year.

The other two channels, one a children's service, the other general entertainment, will be supported by advertising.

Opposition mounts to S African censorship

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A storm of protest from newspapers and opposition parties greeted the imposition yesterday by Pretoria of sweeping new censorship of press, radio and television reporting of civil unrest and most forms of extra-parliamentary opposition to the Government.

Mr Colin Eglin, leader of the Progressive Federal Party, the liberal anti-apartheid official opposition in the white House of Assembly, said the new restrictions, which apply to both local and foreign journalists, had "in effect, pronounced the death sentence on press freedom in South Africa."

Johannesburg's evening newspaper, *The Star*, in a front-page editorial comment under the heading "An Iron Curtain," warned its readers: "This is just possibly the last issue of any relatively free newspaper you will read in South Africa."

In a similar front-page statement, the *Pretoria News* said: "Well, that's it. Today South Africa joins such sophisticated autocracies as Zambia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Paraguay, China and its own arch foe, Soviet Russia. It now has in common with them that distinctive characteristic of dictatorial regimes: political control of the press."

The paper went on: "Of course, this does not disturb the SABC (South African Broadcasting Corporation) or

the (Afrikaans) newspapers, which, with mild protest, will do the muzzle. But it effectively means the end of the freedom and credibility of the independent newspapers."

Mr Hal Miller, executive chairman of the Argus Company, one of the two main English newspaper groups, said: "The regulations are even more restrictive than we expected, and the flickering lamp of freedom has dimmed alarmingly. Our newspapers will be severely handicapped in their primary task of providing information to the public, and there is a very real danger that, in the absence of independent reporting and analysis, the people of South Africa will be prey to exaggerated and disruptive rumour."

The new regulations require all articles containing prohibited material to be telefaxed for vetting by an inter-departmental press liaison centre, set up by the Government's Bureau for Information.

Prohibited material covers news and comment about all forms of unrest, from riots and police action to protest marches, meetings, funerals, boycotts and politically motivated strikes, as well as reporting of statements encouraging people to take part in such activity.

The Foreign Correspondents' Association said its members would continue to do their best to inform the public of events.

Blanket of silence, page 8

Filibuster fails to halt schools Bill

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

Labour MPs yesterday wiped out the day's business in the Commons after a 23-hour filibuster against the teachers' pay Bill.

But their action failed to stop the controversial legislation completing its remaining stages.

After a debate lasting a little short of 24 hours and incorporating 16 divisions, the legislation empowering an imposed settlement in the long-running schools dispute was given a third reading by 235 votes to 152 - a Government majority of 83.

One casualty of the marathon sitting was the scheduled Commons clash between the Prime Minister and Mr Neil Kinnock, which was widely expected to focus on Labour's unilateralist defence policy.

Tory and Alliance MPs were saying that Labour kept talking to save Mr Kinnock further embarrassment over his party's plans to scrap nuclear weapons, but this was strongly denied by Opposition sources.

They pointed to minutes of last week's shadow cabinet meeting at which it was decided to mount an all-out assault on what was regarded as a "brutal" measure being rushed through the House.

Labour MPs were told last Thursday to expect a sitting lasting late into the night in an attempt to expose the shortcomings of the Government's approach.

Earlier yesterday, a weary Mr Giles Radice, Labour's frontbench education spokesman, said the 30 backbench "sharpshooters" who had fought the Bill through the night had made their point.

They had subjected it to full democratic scrutiny, exposed its contents to a wider public and sent a signal to the Lords, which debates it on January 12.

The Bill scraps the Burnham pay bargaining machinery and replaces it with an interim advisory committee to make recommendations to Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education and Science.

But Mr Baker will be the final arbiter over any orders laid before Parliament.

Labour's attack centred on the accusation that the Secretary of State was robbing teachers of their trade unions rights in defiance of international conventions.

But Mr Baker insisted that his proposals would respect such rights because the unions would have a part to play in the determination of salaries and conditions.

He said it was a pity the Opposition had not had more to say about children's rights and parents' rights - notably the right to an uninterrupted high quality education. The Bill was designed to help restore this right.

Parliament, page 4

Economy 'looks bright'

The outlook for the economy next year is good, says the Bank of England. And manufacturing industry plans to invest more next year than at any time since the late 1970s (David Smith writes).

The Bank, in its *Quarterly Bulletin*, says: "The Chancellor of the Exchequer has painted a picture of non-inflationary growth which is,

or ought to be, within our grasp."

It predicts that the economy will grow by 3 per cent. According to the Department of Trade and Industry's Investment Intentions Survey, the volume of investment by industry will rise by 6 per cent next year and by a similar amount in 1988.

Bank optimism, page 23

Computer funds sought in hunt for child killer

The Home Office is to be asked to provide funds for the standardization of police computer information on three child murders.

A spokesman for six chief constables said yesterday they were convinced that the murders could be solved. But important parallels could not be followed up because of a lack of resources to transfer information to a recently-acquired Home Office computer, called Holmes.

The chief constables decided this week to approach the Home Office for financial backing after three meetings at which they discussed the "considerable financial and resource implications" of such an operation.

The police said yesterday that the move indicated the importance of a possible link between the murders of Caroline Hogg, aged five, who disappeared in July 1983,

Susan Maxwell, aged 11, who went missing in July 1982, and Sarah Harper, aged 10, who disappeared last March.

A spokesman for the Lothian and Borders police said: "Right from the start we realized that there could well be a link between the Hogg and Maxwell murders. It has many very distinctive and very important parallels."

"But computerization of all three cases would involve the transfer of 70,000 records on the Hogg case alone. Converting manual indexes to the Holmes programme is a massive manpower and logistical problem," he said.

Mr Charles McLachlan, Nottinghamshire chief constable, who chaired the meetings, has said previously that the murders could have been committed by the same man.

A Home Office spokesman said that computerization was the responsibility of individual constabularies.

Fleming refuge in Peru fails

By Michael Hornsby

Peru last night dashed the hopes of refuge for Mr John Fleming, the Briton wanted by Scotland Yard for questioning over the £26 million Brinks-Mat robbery, by withdrawing a visa granted to him earlier.

Under US law Fleming, who has been held in Miami for almost four months, faces deportation to Britain if he is unable to find a country willing to give him refuge.

Since August, he has been expelled or turned back from Spain, Costa Rica, Panama and the Dominican Republic, and now may be running short of possible hosts.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service said officials at the Peruvian consulate in Miami revoked his visa after learning that he was being sought for questioning by Scotland Yard.

MPs query ban on Chamberlain's private diary

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Historians and MPs are questioning the action of Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary, in stopping the publication next month of the private diary and papers of Neville Chamberlain.

Birmingham University, which houses the papers consisting of a diary and several letters from Chamberlain to his sisters, was planning to release the papers in January, in accordance with what it had been led to believe by the Cabinet Office was a 50-year ban on the documents.

On receiving the papers from Chamberlain's family in 1976 the university contacted the Cabinet Office and was

told that they could be released next year.

But the university has recently been told by Sir Robert that the original advice was a mistake and that the papers were subject to the 100-year secrecy rule on ministerial papers relating to the abdication.

The earlier mistake had apparently been made because the officials concerned forgot that Chamberlain was, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, a member of the Baldwin Cabinet which had to wrestle with the crisis.

However, historians are raising doubts over the legal basis for Sir Robert's action in stopping the release of private,



Neville Chamberlain, pictured in 1936.

as opposed to ministerial, papers.

Ministerial papers are the property of the Crown and therefore subject to the terms of public records Acts through the decades.

Experts on public records believe that the Cabinet Office may have discretion to stop the publication of private papers if their contents are thought to contain material similar to that in ministerial papers which are the subject of a ban.

Mr B S Benedikt, sub-librarian of special collections at Birmingham, said yesterday: "This is a grey area. It raises the question of when the responsibility of a Cabinet minister ends. Do the private recollections of events that occurred in Cabinet amount to ministerial papers if they are written down and committed to a diary?"

He said yesterday university authorities would be discussing how to clear up the confusion.

Mr David Alton, Liberal MP for Mossley Hill, is tabling questions to the Lord Privy Seal, Mr John Biffen, asking why the papers were being withheld.

He said yesterday: "The legality of this action must be investigated. The documents are not government documents and several other private collections of papers of politicians relating to the abdication have already been opened to historical inspection."

"Senior Civil Servants seem to have a knee-jerk reaction to try to suppress the publication of information. Now this seems to be extending to historical documents that can have no bearing on present day security affairs."

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NEWS SUMMARY

Bomb attempt by IRA foiled

The Provisional IRA yesterday sent a parcel bomb to the offices of a member of the Northern Ireland police authority as part of an intimidation campaign against its members.

Terrorists hid the explosive device inside a book before sending the parcel through the mail at a time when postmen are coping with the huge Christmas rush.

A businessman became suspicious when it was delivered to his premises in Belfast's city centre and carried the package to an RUC station near by where Army bomb disposal experts defused the device.

Police to get armour

Mr Charles Kelly, Chief Constable of Staffordshire, was yesterday told he may have five armour-plated vehicles in which to transport police.

Mr Kelly had asked his police authority for the vehicles to be fitted with the armour, which includes plastic lining inside, iron-grill windows and anti-riot tyres and petrol tanks.

Although it is the first time the force has had armour-plated vehicles, the chief constable dismissed suggestions that they represented a new initiative. He said they merely replaced existing vehicles.

Inquiry into firm Maxwell damages

The police commercial branch yesterday began an investigation into the £5 million crash of Liverpool's festival gardens.

It was disclosed last week that more than 550 companies were owed a total of £5.4 million by Transworld Leisure, the company which ran the former international garden festival site. Mr John Anton, head of the firm, has resigned from the company which planned to renovate the resort.

Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, was yesterday awarded £5,000 in the High Court against WH Smith & Son, who distributed an issue of *Private Eye* that contained a libel against him.

WH Smith apologized. The court was told that it had continued to distribute *Private Eye* after it stated that it would justify the allegation, which it failed to do.

Mr Maxwell was awarded £55,000 against the magazine last month.

Adult training boost

A £3 million scheme to boost adult training in industry was announced last night by Mr George Waldean, Under Secretary of State for Education and Science.

The scheme, called *Pickup*, will provide courses at colleges, polytechnics and universities to help adults update their skills. Annual grants of between £25,000 and £150,000 will be made available.

A report released yesterday said building societies were also seeking better management training because of new laws which allow them greater competition with banks.

Union ballot

Voting in the re-run ballot which will decide whether Mr John Macdonald (right), a supporter of Militant Tendency, becomes general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association is expected to be completed today.

A report showed that 21 branches of the association with a membership of 2,270, were unable to vote in the last ballot which gave Mr Macdonald a victory by 121 votes.



Victory for disabled

More severely disabled people will qualify for extra allowances under new arrangements announced by the social security minister, Mr John Major, yesterday.

From April 1988, when the social security reforms come into effect, severely disabled people living independently in the community will qualify for an extra premium even if they are currently receiving the lower rate of attendance allowance.

The announcement comes after widespread criticism of the original proposal that only those receiving attendance allowance at the higher rate would be eligible. Mr Major said that 7,000 people would qualify at a cost of £8 million.

Solicitors vote to lift advertising rules

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

A new publicity code giving solicitors wide freedom to advertise in supermarkets, stations and post offices, on television or as sponsors for sporting or other events, was endorsed in principle by the Law Society council yesterday.

But at the end of a long and intense debate the 70-member council decisively rejected a

proposal to allow solicitors to make arrangements with estate agents, banks or building societies for the introduction of clients.

The proposal was a key part of a package for revised practice rules which would have paved the way for radical change. Final council approval was deferred for the new publicity code, as well as the remaining revised practice rules, until next month.

Under the proposed new

rules, solicitors would be able to set up companies providing services, such as company secretarial services, trustee or executor companies, or property display centres. But a ban is proposed on "hiving off" part of a solicitor's practice — such as conveyancing — to a separate business.

This issue with the question of solicitors employed by financial institutions, and that of mixed partnerships with other professionals, are likely

to be looked at separately next spring.

The publicity code and the revised practice rules will come up for final approval at the Law Society council meeting next month.

Under the new code there is a complete shift in emphasis, which allows almost all advertising instead of only limited advertising as now. Advertising on television, by direct mail and on "moveable objects" is permitted.

Urging solicitors to adopt the package as a whole, Mr Peter Verdin, who chaired the working party, gave a warning that solicitors would be squeezed out of "mainstream commercial life" unless they agreed to the changes.

But there was wide opposition from many members. Mr John Franks, called the proposals a "rogues' charter" and said the profession should be balloted on the proposed new rules.

Charities must change, Princess Anne says

By Paul Valley

Private charities in Britain should pioneer new techniques of caring for the socially deprived, Princess Anne says.

They could then be incorporated into the welfare state system she adds in a forthcoming television programme on the work of the Save the Children Fund in Great Britain.

But the charities should not absorb the state system of its responsibilities.

The innovative role of charities is already evident in certain areas and could well be extended, says the Princess, who is president of the fund which is best known for overseas relief work.

Princess Anne says in the hour-long documentary, *The Princess and the Children*, which will be shown by TV South on New Year's Day, that the fund spends a third of its income on work in Britain's inner-city areas.

Its projects include a centre to care for the children of Protestant and Catholic detainees in Belfast; a playbus scheme to minister to the needs of gypsy children in the Home Counties; a day-care and literacy project for Asian mothers and their children in London; and inner-city schemes to give moral and legal support to some of the parents of the nine million children in Britain who live below the official poverty line.

People needed to be educated about their rights under the welfare state system, the princess says.

"There is no point in us trying to duplicate the thing or just pass it by. Besides, it makes perfectly good sense to inform people of what is available for them."

She says there is now a greater awareness in local authorities for grant aid to be channelled through voluntary agencies, which can try out new approaches.

"It is one way of finding out whether they work before local authorities take them on. The voluntary agencies are much more flexible and can respond much more quickly, so they are probably much better placed to carry out those sort of investigative projects."

They also have another important function. The welfare state is a safety net but there will always be some groups of people who fall through.

The Princess says Save the Children's work at home is "every bit as important" as its work overseas.

"It has always tended to look for areas which are being neglected for one reason or another people falling through the safety net."

She said the aim was to find some practical way in which we can approach the problem so that it can be incorporated in the welfare state.

The fund is happy to prime such initiatives which currently cost about £5.6 million a year to run. "But we do not want to go on running them. They are there, if they work, to be taken over."

PC gives 'jail attack' statement

Former police constable Tom Clarke, who claimed on a television programme that the man jailed for the Birmingham pub bombings had been threatened with guns and albatross dogs, yesterday gave a voluntary statement to senior police officers.

In the presence of his solicitor, Mr George Jones, he gave a 17-page witness statement to Mr Leslie Sharpe, deputy chief constable of the West Midlands police.

On December 1, Mr Clarke told a *World in Action* documentary that while on duty at Queens Road police station, Aston, Birmingham, he saw evidence that the men had been beaten up by the police.

Mr Clarke left the police eight years ago after 23 years service when he was convicted of stealing £5 from a prisoner. He served two months in jail.

Soldiers in new Irish crossing

A third incursion by British soldiers into the Irish Republic is being investigated by authorities on both sides of the border.

Four soldiers were discovered 75 yards into Co Donegal by people living near a border customs post at Killea. They had crossed into the south while engaged on border duty in Co Londonderry but returned when a joint Garda and Irish army patrol arrived on the scene and told them they were in the south.

The incident was the third to occur since last Saturday leading to protests by Irish government ministers, sensitive in the run-up to a general election, to opposition efforts to exploit the issue.

In the most serious incident a soldier was held for five hours at Dundalk police station in Co Louth.



Mr John Browne, MP, after his visit to Winchester Prison yesterday (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

Wintonians wary of MP under fire

From Robin Young, Winchester

One does not need to spend long in the busy streets and narrow lanes of Winchester to realize that the area's local Conservative MP is in a surprising amount of trouble. Mr John Browne, a parliamentary former Guards officer, succeeded Rear-Admiral Morgan Giles in the blue chip seat of Winchester in 1979, but saw his majority whittled by the Alliance challenge at the last election.

Mr Browne is now principally in the news because of a bitter divorce settlement dispute with his former wife, who is threatened with imprisonment if she does not pay an outstanding £49,000 from an original £175,000 settlement agreed in 1984.

Mr Browne last week announced his engagement to a New York divorcee and promptly had to deny rumours that it was his intention to drop his parliamentary career and emigrate to the United States.

Simultaneously, criticism reared its ugly head among senior former officers of his local Conservative association.

Mr Simon Blunt, the constituency chairman, has summoned a special meeting of the constituency executive next Tuesday to consider whether Mr Browne should be readopted as the constituency's candidate.

Yesterday Mr Browne presented a different face to his constituency. He put himself on display at the annual fatstock show, where he was greeted as a familiar face by several farmers, exhibitors and butchers and also went to the local prison.

To his face, Wintonians are affable and pleasant, and Mr Browne exuded confidence among them. But a small, and not necessarily representative, straw poll among former Conservative voters in the constituency showed that a quarter said they would not vote for Mr Browne again. Winchester is among the most prosperous constituencies in the country, yet its citizens have plenty of complaints. They grumble, for example, about the Great Divide which, they claim starves local industry of skilled labour because of high property prices.

Asbestos peril in theatre

Blue asbestos has been found in the 130-year-old Wellington Pier theatre, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, which is facing demolition.

The council, which owns the theatre, said yesterday it would spend more than £8,000 on covering the dangerous asbestos, as part of a campaign to save the building.

Powerboat death was an accident

A verdict of accidental death was recorded yesterday on Mr William Taylor, one of Europe's leading powerboat racers, who died in a 120mph crash last September.

Mr Taylor, aged 40, of Priory Road, Keynsham, Bristol, was thrown from his craft during a Formula 2 grand prix race at Holme Pierrepont national watersports centre near Nottingham, an inquest was told.

Mr Nigel Reed, of Stockwood, Bristol, said that engine problems had emerged on a practice run.

Collieries' waste still polluting coastline

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Richard Tracey, the junior environment minister, was yesterday shown the full extent of the "black waste" pollution, along the coastline of Co Durham, caused by the dumping of colliery waste.

Mr Tracey spent an hour in a helicopter being shown the area around Seaham Harbour to discover the full extent of the problem.

Afterwards he toured five beaches with Mr Ken Moses, technical director of British Coal, and met local councillors and environmental pressure groups to discuss ways of clearing the ugly black waste.

Several schemes are already under way: £740,000 has been spent at Blackhall, and £240,000 is earmarked for land reclamation in the Eastington area, with 100 per cent grant aid. Mr Tracey was investigating how the Government could aid future clean-up schemes, in co-operation with British Coal.

Afterwards, he said future joint land reclamation schemes put forward by British Coal and local people would be given a high priority for government assistance.

Future tipping by British Coal could be concentrated on one site, to ease environmental problems. He emphasized that the industry should meet the costs of achieving the environmental standards of the day.

Mr William Waldegrave, the environment and countryside minister, has been given a frosty reception by some water authorities after his announcement that 350 bathing beaches around the country have to be brought up to EEC standards by the end of the 1990s.

At present only about half Britain's beaches meet the Community's requirements. Others, including popular resorts such as Blackpool, would fail the tests according to initial results from a two-year survey of the beaches due to be completed next year.

Mr Cliff Davies, the South Wales area director of British Coal, who has presided over the closure of half the colliery's pits since the end of the miners' strike, is to retire.

Since his appointment, in July last year, Mr Davies has closed 13 pits and cut manpower in the colliery from 21,000 to 11,800. The cuts, together with investment totalling £100 million in new high technology coalfields, brought the area into profit for the first time since the Second World War. He is to be succeeded by the deputy director (mining) Mr Ron Price, who will take over on April 1.

Mr Davies, aged 61, took over as area director on July 1 last year, four months after the end of the miners' strike.

'Meanest' councils attacked

By Richard Evans
Political Correspondent

A propaganda offensive to highlight the "meanest" Conservative-controlled councils will be launched by the Labour Party today.

The campaign is intended to counter the "loony left" attack launched by the Government against left-wing authorities.

Each month the record of a Tory "meanest" council will be compared with that of a similar Labour-controlled authority. The first council will be Berkshire which, Labour claims:

● Prevented any children under five entering primary school;

● Used secret procedures to scrap seven new nursery classes due for opening in September 1985;

● Cut staff in higher education, affecting particularly dance and drama courses;

● Cut back on road maintenance, leading to the Audit Commission to say the council should spend another £600,000;

● Stopped all internal redecoration in schools, youth and community centres this year.

Labour will say that in Labour-controlled Derbyshire, school meals are 30p cheaper, rubbish costs half as much to collect, more is spent on road repairs, over 30 times as much is invested in economic development, under-fives have nearly four times as good a chance of getting a school place and there are, proportionally, more police.

Other councils on Labour's "meanest municipalities" list include:

● Bromley, which intends to put up council rents by 25 per cent and evict 100 people from their homes over the next two years to make way for a shopping development;

● Buckinghamshire County Council, which has just cut all school meals;

● Surrey County Council, where parents have been asked to help to buy school books and equipment;

● Wandsworth, which privatized rubbish collection and then won an award for dirty streets.

Prosecution of former MI5 officers unlikely

By Michael Evans, Whitehall Correspondent

Sir Michael Havers, Attorney General, is still considering whether to take action against a number of former MI5 and MI6 officers, including Lord Rothschild, for their alleged involvement in books on British espionage and counter-espionage.

However it is now felt unlikely that any will face prosecution. Sir Michael is expected to make a statement soon in a written answer.

A number of allegations have been made about former members of MI5 and MI6 in connection with books by journalists since the start of the government case against the former MI5 officer, Mr Peter Wright, in Sydney. Sir Michael is considering

Lord Rothschild's case, after a statement by Mr Wright that he paid for his flight to Britain and arranged for him to meet Mr Chapman Pincher with the aim of writing a book about Soviet penetration of MI5.

Although Lord Rothschild has not explained why he brought Mr Wright to meet Mr Pincher, Sir Michael is likely to decide against legal action.

Other former intelligence officers under investigation are Sir Arthur Franks, former MI6 director-general, Sir Dick White, former head of MI5 and MI6, Mr Arthur Martin, a former colleague of Mr Wright, and Mr George Russell Lee, a former MI5 assistant director.

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Airport warning on gift wrapping

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Gaily wrapped Christmas presents could be torn open by security staff at Heathrow Airport, passengers were warned yesterday.

The British Airports Authority advised travellers using the airport not to wrap their presents.

Security chiefs fear that terrorists or drug smugglers may try to use the Christmas peak passenger times to slip drugs or weapons into or out of the country, and security staff have been told not to relax the constant search.

Warning notices about hand baggage and wrapped parcels

are being posted in all passenger terminals and will be backed by public address announcements.

Extra security staff are being drafted in to help during the Christmas rush, when up to 100,000 passengers a day are expected to pass through the airport.

Mr Michael King, Heathrow's chairman and managing director, said that time spent on searches could delay flights if warnings were ignored.

"If our warnings are ignored the large numbers of passengers coupled with the tight security measures required by

the Government could seriously affect time spent on searches and even delay some flights."

"We want travellers to have a happy start to their Christmas holidays. They can make their journeys so much easier for themselves."

Candle-shaped light bulbs found on sale in Stoke-on-Trent and Lichfield, Staffordshire, could kill, trading standards officers said yesterday.

The 25-watt bulbs, packaged in a red and blue box, have an inch-long live wire protruding from the base.

Print activists demand recall of TUC

By Tim Jones

Hardline print union activists are putting increasing pressure on Miss Brenda Dean, general secretary of Sogat 82, to demand a recall of the TUC to discuss reopening disciplinary action against the electricians' union, which has members working at the News International plant at Wapping, east London.

The activists, and their diminishing band of supporters, are being backed by the London Communist Campaign Group. Their strategy has been outlined in the communist *Morning Star* newspaper, which last week dismissed a quarter of its print

workers with redundancy terms far inferior to those being offered to the former employees of News International, publishers of *The Times* and three other national newspapers.

Print workers are angry over the decision by the TUC general council last month not to act on the vote taken by the TUC congress in Brighton which said the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union should be punished because of its association with the company.

Mr Eric Hammond, general secretary of the EETPU, has said the reality of the situation is that throughout the dispute, thousands of members of

Sogat, the National Graphical Association, the National Union of Journalists and the Transport and General Workers' Union have worked to produce and distribute all News International's publications.

In contrast, only a "couple of hundred" EETPU members worked at the company's high technology plant at Wapping.

The Sogat hardliners claim that by its action, the policy-making general council has snubbed the TUC congress which they say is the ultimate "parliament" of the trade union movement. Its decisions should therefore be acted upon.

Miss Dean acknowledged

she is in a difficult position as only the general council can order a special recall.

Sogat's national executive committee will consider the request to press for a recall of congress at its next meeting in January although some activists are pressing for an immediate decision.

A recent meeting called by the London Communist Campaign Group called for a mass turn-out at Wapping tomorrow to demonstrate in support of the 5,140 former employees who went on strike and were dismissed.

There have been regular demonstrations and marches and 24-hour picketing since the dispute began last January.



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Brain defect babies 'could be used in transplants'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The birth of babies who are doomed to die from brain defects could be induced and their vital organs used in transplant operations to save other dying children, according to an American surgeon.

The controversial prospect, in which expectant mothers would be asked to allow their newborn to become immediate candidates for transplants, is put forward in tomorrow's issue of *The Lancet* by Dr Michael Harrison, of the University of California in San Francisco.

Most children with fatal diseases die waiting for a transplant because there are not enough donor organs, he said. The present system of taking organs from "brain dead" accident victims could not meet the demand.

"Unless donor material becomes simpler and less costly to procure and transplant, these life-saving procedures will have to be rationed," Dr Harrison said.

But fetuses with defects so hopeless that they meet the requirements for abortion at any stage of pregnancy "may be ideal donors", he said. Such babies would die naturally during or shortly after birth.

One baby in every 1,000-2,000 was born with anencephaly, in which the brain is missing. The condition is easily detectable during pregnancy and screening could lead to about 2,000 such cases being identified in the United States every year, Dr Harrison said.

Immature organs, including

the heart, liver and kidneys, from such cases could be transplanted at least as a temporary life-saving measure pending other treatment or transplant operations, he suggested.

Dr Harrison, of the foetal treatment programme and the division of paediatric surgery in San Francisco, said: "If foetal organs prove suitable, transplantation for children may be greatly simplified."

The biggest potential advantage was that such organs were less likely to be rejected.

"We are identifying fetuses so fatally damaged that survival outside the womb is impossible. The ability to transplant foetal organs may now give us the chance to recognize the contribution of this doomed fetus to mankind," Dr Harrison said.

The diagnosis of anencephaly should be confirmed by experts independent of the transplant team, and the transplant surgeons should not be involved in the care or counselling of the expectant mother.

"The diagnosis of foetal anencephaly is always devastating. Once the family has worked through their grief and decided how the pregnancy will be managed, the possibility of organ donation may be brought up."

"In my experience families are surprisingly positive about donation. They clutch at any possibility that something good might be salvaged from a seemingly wasted pregnancy."

Wife had a fatal dose of morphine

A forensic scientist found a fatal overdose of morphine in the body of a doctor whose husband, a general practitioner, is accused of murdering her, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Dr John Taylor had been given part of the liver of Dr Ruby Baksh after her body was exhumed in Spain. He also examined serum taken from Dr John Baksh's second wife, Madhu, after he had allegedly tried to kill her.

Dr Taylor said his wife morphine was in her body "which could have been fatal".

Dr Baksh, aged 53, of Bickley Road, Bromley, south-east London, denies murdering his first wife in 1983 and attempting to murder his second wife in January this year.

Mr Allan Green, for the prosecution, has alleged that Dr Baksh injected Ruby with a fatal dose of morphine while on holiday in Spain and got an elderly Spanish doctor to certify she had died from a heart attack.

Mr Green has told the court that Dr Baksh wanted to be free to marry Madhu, but later, faced with heavy debts he drugged her, slit her throat and dumped her in woods in Kent. Her life was saved when a passer-by found her.

Det Chief Supt Norman Stockford said Dr Baksh told him of "kissing and cuddling sessions" he had with Madhu in a hospital ward in November 1982.

Dr Baksh wrote that his first wife took an overdose that month but recovered. When they went to Spain in December Dr Baksh claimed she committed suicide after she found out about his affair.

Dr Baksh told Mr Stockford that he found a note beside his wife's body which declared: "I cannot take it any more. I am afraid I have to go. This time I am making sure I will not wake up."

The trial continues next week.

Medieval gold locket sold for record £1.3m

The Middleham Jewel, a gold locket dating from Richard III's time, was sold at Sotheby's yesterday for £1.3 million to an undisclosed private buyer.

The price was a record for any medieval object sold at public auction. Mr Richard Camber, senior director of Sotheby's, said: "The previous highest price was £1.2 million, paid in 1976 for an enamel medallion."

Three treasure hunters found the locket in Middleham, North Yorkshire, near a castle which belonged to Richard III. They will share the proceeds of the sale with the owner of the land and its tenant farmer.

Mr William Wiggins, aged 42, one of those who found the jewel with a metal detector last year, was at the sale and said: "We always knew it was

something special. I'm going for a holiday now and I could think about a new house."

Sotheby's would not disclose whether the jewel, described as one of the most important examples of medieval goldsmith's work surviving, would stay in Britain.

The fifteenth century jewel, just bigger than a matchbox, is engraved with a nativity scene on one side, and the trinity on the other, with a border of saints and a ring at the top for a chain.

Members of the Richard III Society, from Wensleydale, Yorkshire, which is dedicated to the memory of the monarch, were at the sale with more than a dozen Middleham villagers.

The society speculates that the jewel may have been given to Richard's illegitimate son Edward as a charm to ward off epilepsy.



Eric Sykes, the actor (left), with the insignia of the OBE yesterday which he received at an investiture held by the Queen at Buckingham Palace. Virginia Wade, the tennis player, was awarded the OBE insignia, and others honoured included Mr Wynford Vaughan-Thomas, the author and broadcaster, who was made CBE.

Rape case jury's vital questions

Prosecuting counsel in the case of a doctor accused of raping a girl aged eight, told the jury yesterday that they had two vital questions to consider. Was she sexually assaulted, and did the doctor do it?

Mr John Mathew, QC, for the prosecution, was making his closing speech on the fourth day of the trial, in a private prosecution, brought by the girl's mother, at Chelmsford Crown Court.

The doctor, aged 50, an anaesthetist, from Essex, has denied raping the girl while she was staying with him. He has also denied indecent assault.

Mr Mathew told the jury: "There are really two questions for you to ask yourself and then answer them... Was that young girl sexually assaulted, raped or indecently assaulted? Because if the answer to that is no, or that you are not sure, then that is the end of this matter and you will acquit and you needn't think any further about the evidence."

If they were sure, he said, they had to consider whether the defendant was responsible.

There were three aspects to this, based on the evidence. They were: the change in the girl's character immediately she returned from the doctor's house; the medical evidence; and the evidence relating to staining of the nightdress she said she was wearing on the night she alleges she was raped.

Mr Mathew suggested the evidence about dramatic changes in the girl's behaviour was "overwhelming". He also suggested there was "compelling" medical evidence.

Mr Anthony Arlidge, QC, for the defence, said: "All of us in this courtroom have an abhorrence of sexual interference with young children. If it is proved that men or women are responsible for such sexual interference, then it is right that they should be convicted."

"On the other hand, there is perhaps nothing worse than the thought of someone being wrongly convicted."

He spoke about the difficulty of assessing the evidence of a young child, and described what had been a "traumatic year" for the girl.

Her parents split up; her home burnt down; she moved house twice and changed schools twice; her brother was ill; her mother had to stay with him in hospital; she had to stay away from home, with the doctor; and her mother was taking a new lover.

He asked: "Would it be truly beyond the realms of thought that such a little girl would want to draw attention to herself? That such a little girl would want to hurt herself by banging her head, or in some other way?"

The case continues today.

Coroner absolves family

A coroner yesterday absolved a family of all blame for the attack by their Jack Russell terrier which killed their daughter, aged five days.

The dog, Doty, was put down after killing Amy Victoria Bourne, of Wanlip Road, Plaistow, east London, on Tuesday.

At the inquest into the child's death, Dr Harold Price, the London eastern district coroner, described the death as "tragic, sudden and unexpected".

As the child's father, Mr Daniel Bourne, a bus driver, listened, Dr Price said: "There is no way in my view this absolutely loving little family could have anticipated this tragic event."

He recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Mr Bourne told the Walthamstow inquest that his daughter was born on Thursday of last week at Newham hospital, east London, weighing 6lb 6oz.

He said the Jack Russell had been with the family for two-and-a-half years and that his

other two daughters, Claire, aged 13, and Lyndsey, aged 10, got on well with it, and with their other dog, a cross-breed Labrador.

"They used to dress the Jack Russell up and push her around in a pram. The dog had never done anything to anybody," Mr Bourne said.

Mr Bourne said he and his wife had been trying for a third child for several years.

On Tuesday, they had intended to take Amy out in the perambulator. While he fetched it the baby was in a carrycot on two chairs up against the wall in the kitchen.

Mr Bourne said: "I noticed that the little dog had gone. I saw she was in the carrycot. I rushed over there and at first I thought she was just being nosy. Then I picked up the baby and called out for my mother to get an ambulance."

Staff at Newham General Hospital later certified the baby dead.

Dr Alan Grant, a pathologist, said death was due to cerebral lacerations due to skull perforation and fracture.

He said that part of the baby's brain had been destroyed. There were cuts to the head and widespread bruising to the skull.

Some cuts were caused by the small teeth of the dog.

PC Colin Manning, a dog handler from East Ham police station, said the dog, which had blood around its muzzle, showed aggression towards him.

Later, at the hospital, Mr Bourne told him he wanted the dog destroyed. This was done by a veterinary surgeon.

PC David Linnell, stationed at East Ham, said he saw blood stains outside the house when he went there.

Dr Price said: "We all of us feel the greatest sympathy towards this young family with regard to this tragic, sudden and unexpected death of a very valuable little girl whom the parents have been trying to have for 10 years."

"Perhaps the dog may have been jealous. I don't know. Perhaps it jumped in response to the high frequency noise of the baby."

Non-white population shown in survey

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

One fifth of the population of inner London is non-white, according to a government report yesterday. The non-whites accounted for 9 per cent of the people in metropolitan counties and 4.4 per cent of the total population of Britain.

The *Labour Force Survey* 1985 shows that the proportion of persons aged under 30 in the non-white population was 62 per cent compared with only 42 per cent of whites.

Some 60 per cent of the West Indian or Guyanese and Indian populations were aged under 30 compared with around 70 per cent of Pakistanis and Bangladeshis.

However, the population of mixed ethnic origin had the youngest age structure of all. More than half were aged under 16.

The report, prepared by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, shows how Britain turned into a multi-racial country.

Only 10 per cent, most of whom were white people born in the Mediterranean Commonwealth or India, entered the United Kingdom before 1955. Most of the people born in the Caribbean Common-

wealth came between the mid 1950s and the mid 1960s and the corresponding peak for people born in India came in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

People born in Bangladesh were more recent arrivals and more than one third first entered the UK during the 1980s.

The total non-white population in 1985 is put at 2,376,000. The total comprises 547,000 people of West Indian or Guyanese ethnic origin, 689,000 of Indian, 406,000 of Pakistani, 99,000 of Bangladeshi, 122,000 of Chinese, 102,000 of African, 61,000 of Arab, 232,000 of "mixed" and 117,000 "other".

"Not stated" were 637,000.

The survey is of private households. The results are based on interviews in the spring quarter of 1985. The total coverage of the survey was about 59,000 households in Britain, containing about 160,000 people. The results have been updated from the sample to give estimates applying to the population of Britain as a whole.

Portfolio Gold—Breakfast surprises for two

Yesterday's winners of the Portfolio Gold prize, sharing £4,000, have both been taking part in the game since it started and both discovered their good fortune during their routine breakfast-time check on the numbers.

Mrs Julia Bishop, of Long Bennington, Lincolnshire, checked with her husband, a company director, and said she would probably invest the money on behalf of their son, Andrew, aged three.

The other winner, Mrs Anne Edgerley, aged 75, of Kelsale, Saxmudham, Suffolk, who is married with a family and "a lot of grandchildren", said: "I have happy dreams of possibly replacing my car and other things that are fast wearing out, like the washing machine. You need a car living in the country as we do."

Readers who wish to play the game can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold, The Times, PO Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.



Mrs Julia Bishop, who plans to invest her win

Fireproof lab gutted in blaze

A fire at the Monks Wood experimental station at Abbot's Ripton, Cambridgeshire, caused damage estimated at £250,000 yesterday.

The fire, in a laboratory described as fireproof, started in the early hours and was extinguished by staff. The station carries out animal and mineral research for the Government.

Children gain from rhymes

Parents who want their children to do well at school were yesterday urged to switch off the television and teach them nursery rhymes.

Psychologists from Oxford University claim that youngsters taught rhymes have a head start over classmates.

The team started a study in the 1970s and recent tests of the 400 children, now aged 13, showed that those who had never learnt nursery rhymes were still lagging years behind with reading and spelling.

Dr Lynette Bradley, of the university's experimental psychology department, said: "The ones who couldn't rhyme to start with and who weren't trained were two years behind by the time they were eight or nine."

"I have just checked again and the same big difference is still there. They haven't caught up at all."

"We need to turn off the television and go back to reciting nursery rhymes. It is a pleasant way for children to learn about sounds."

Ice Age find

The skull of a bison which roamed Britain during the Ice Age 100,000 years ago has been unearthed during excavations in a gravel pit at Maxey, near Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

The bone is being coated with a special plastic to prevent crumbling and go on display in the city museum next year.

Couple 'shunned' after false arrest

A woman who is suing the police for false arrest during a murder inquiry went yesterday as she told the High Court in London how her South Wales pit village turned against her.

Mrs Sarah Hotham, aged 45, of Upper Francis Street, Abertridwr, Mid Glamorgan, and her husband, William, aged 49, are claiming damages against the Metropolitan Police and Det Chief Insp Derek Croft.

Their son, Gareth, was a suspect in the murder of Mr Anthony Bird, a homosexual, in London in June 1980, and they were arrested at their home in November 1980. They were questioned in London for four days, but were not charged.

Police believed the couple

had knowledge of stolen stereo equipment - a vital clue which is still missing. Their son has not been charged with the crime.

Mrs Hotham, a factory worker, wept as she told Mr Justice Pann: "I knew I hadn't done anything wrong. The police called me a liar."

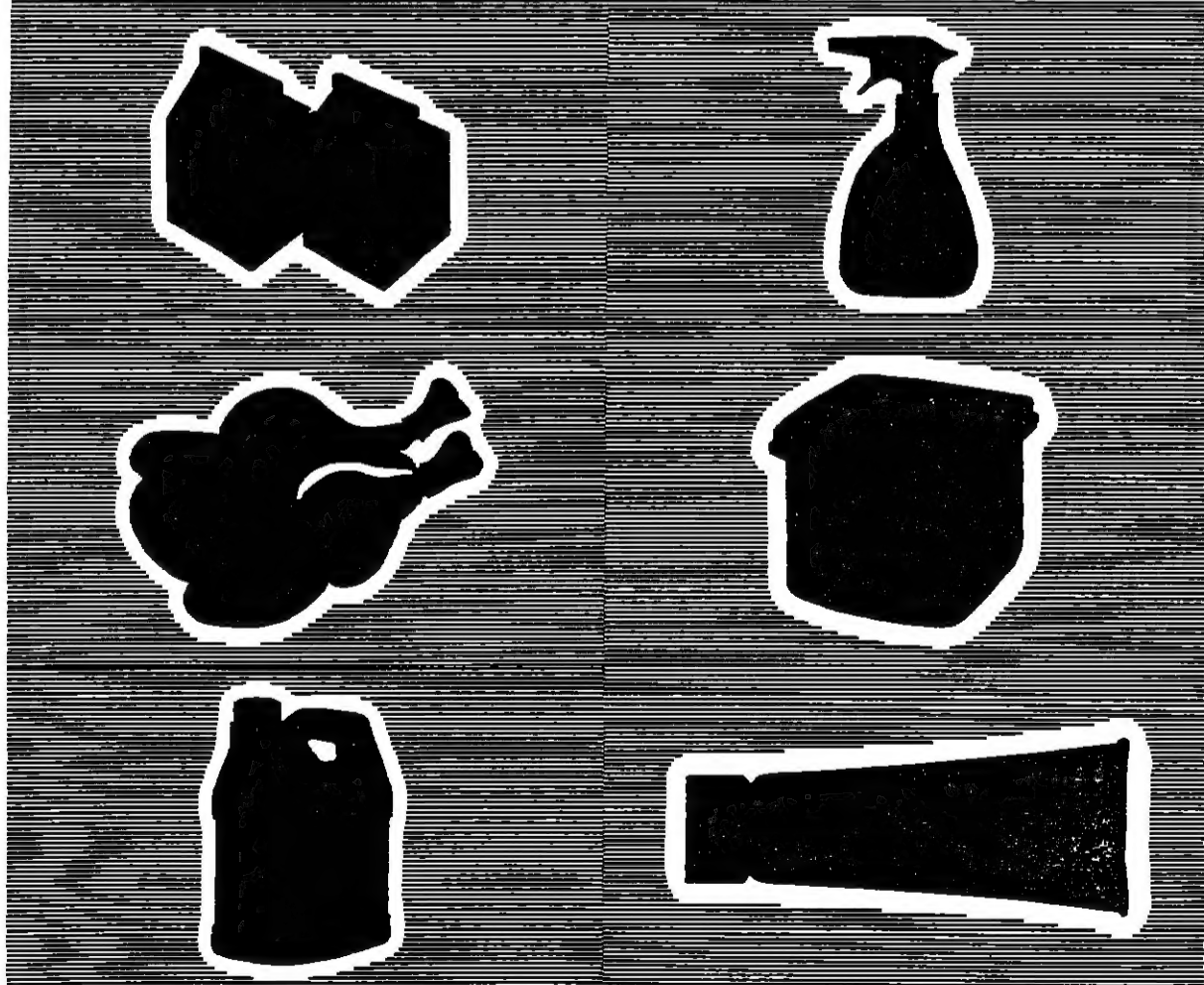
"What we went through in Abertridwr for a long time afterwards was very sad."

"It was terrible for us as a family. We lost quite a lot of friends and we were being kept awake until four, five or six in the morning with terrible phone calls."

The police claim they had reasonable grounds for taking the Hothams into custody and acted lawfully.

The hearing was adjourned until today.

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Catalogue of accidents

Sellafield plant report demands safety audit on hazards in store

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

British Nuclear Fuels has been told to improve the management and operation procedures of its nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at Sellafield, in Cumbria.

A report published yesterday called for a safety audit by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

It has an analysis of incidents of leaks and contamination since 1979. The report says more than 90 per cent of the radioactive waste produced by civil power generation over 20 years is on the site at Sellafield, much of it in liquid form.

So long as waste remains in liquid form and is therefore dispersible, it presents a hazard to those who work there, and potentially to the public or the environment.

The report says a significant difficulty in the management of the site is the lack of national agreement on the means of the disposal in the long term of much of the highly active waste.

But the investigation focuses on the central reprocessing plant called B205. It is said, for practical purposes, to be irreplaceable and must continue to operate for some years.

Most of the incidents have occurred in B205 and its allied buildings.

The spent fuel from power stations which arrives at the site for reprocessing is of the type used in the 11 Magnox power stations of the Central Electricity Generating Board and the South of Scotland Electricity Board.

The report says even if the Magnox nuclear power stations were closed tomorrow the spent fuel currently held at the power stations or in store at Sellafield would require about ten years for its reprocessing at the present rate.

But the plant for reprocessing Magnox fuel is between 20 and 30 years old.

The report says the recent priorities of the company on introducing new plant has reduced the attention paid to the levels of capital renewal, management and skilled labour in the potentially hazardous older parts of the plant.

British Nuclear Fuels is criticized for a short-term

approach in respect to B205 both for maintenance and planned investment, without considering the long term.

That was said to be most apparent in the control room which had been successively adapted so as not to present a clear picture of the state of the plant to its operators.

In other respects the conditions at the B205 plant were said to have been subordinated to the requirements of production in an unsatisfactory manner.

The consequence of the shortcomings was that both management and workers had difficulty in dealing with an accumulation of minor problems without the ability to deal with longer term obstacles.

The report added that with one or two exceptions, the thoroughgoing and positive dedication to every aspect that is characteristic of the best parts of the chemical industry had yet to be achieved.

While site management was conscious of the difficulties and the need for care, it did not appear to be in complete control.

The effectiveness of safety advisory committees on the site was also criticized.

Despite recommendations to the company by the Health and Safety Executive in 1981, the report said, the correct balance was yet to be achieved between the authoritative advisory role of the safety committees and the essential responsibility of line management for the safety of the operations under their control.

In such circumstances, management tended to react rather than to lead and to shelter behind committee opinions and execution of paper procedures rather than take clear management decisions on real problems.

Examination of the working of a system called clearance certificates for work in the plant disclosed an excessive use of the system, clogging operations.

There remained a shortage of clear and detailed instruction how the work itself was to be done.

The site licence required the production of safety cases for

new plant and regularly update safety assessments for existing plants.

The safety case was described as fundamental to proper safety management. It was the source from which plant operating rules, maintenance schedules and emergency plans should flow.

The report said many of the plants audited at Sellafield were newer than B205, and in general were in a more satisfactory condition, though the need for better working instructions held good for those as well.

Deficiencies were detected that could lead to hazards and, in some limited circumstances, to the public.

The inspectors were not satisfied, for instance, about the practice of transfers between shifts and between departments.

The report said Sellafield had been going through a period of huge and beneficial investment, much of which was complete, and standards were improving.

Safety Audit of BNFL Sellafield 1986, volumes 1 and 2 (Health and Safety Executive, Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, £7 and £10).



Mr John Olett, aged 26, a former pit worker, of Thorsley, Co Durham, restoring banners carried by branches of the National Union of Mineworkers since the nineteenth century and traditionally of silk, depicting anything from political leaders to religious scenes.

Help line for child abuse victims in appeal for funds

By Angella Johnson

Miss Esther Rantzen, the television personality, appealed yesterday for more money to keep Childline, a free national telephone service for children in danger, open to receive up to 500 calls a day.

The charity has been inundated with telephone calls from abused children, aged from six, and has estimated that it will cost £1.9 million a year to run the service. At present it has enough money to last until February.

Miss Rantzen, chairman of Childline, which was launched last October, said in London yesterday: "These children have never spoken to anyone of their agony before. We must keep these lines open."

She said that the largest category of calls handled by trained counsellors was from children who had been sexually abused, an estimated 1,336. A further 637 said they had suffered physical violence, 211 complained of being bullied and 596 of parental problems.

After three evenings and an afternoon spent manning one of 10 telephone lines at the charity's headquarters in Queen Victoria Street, central London, Miss Rantzen said: "These children let you into their hearts. I am now walking around, as we all are, with the

harrowing tales they have told me in my head."

One boy rang from a telephone in a local shop late at night because he was frightened to go home after being threatened with a knife by his drunken father. Eventually he was persuaded to allow a local doctor to become involved.

A girl telephoned because she was worried that the next day she was to become forcibly involved in pornographic photography. She talked about the abuse she regularly suffered, but refused to give details of herself or her family.

Miss Rantzen said that about 90 per cent of children who telephoned did so anonymously. But many telephoned several times before they were able to confide in a counsellor.

London and the Home Counties have recorded 688 cases so far, followed by southern England with 372, Midlands 377, East Anglia 124, North 806, west Scotland 229, Wales 112 and Northern Ireland 58.

Miss Rantzen said it cost £65,000 a year to keep one telephone line open. Individual donations of £1 would pay for the cost of a 10-minute call. Companies are also being canvassed for support.

Donations should be sent to Childline, Freepost 1111, London EC4B 4BB.

Outdated equipment and secrecy blamed

By Ian Smith

The report on Sellafield was last night welcomed by Mr Bill Maxwell, secretary of the joint shop stewards committee, which represents more than 7,000 workers at the plant.

The report held no surprises, Mr Maxwell said. It merely pinpointed the problems which both the workers and the management were aware of and were dealing with.

Outdated equipment at the plant still existed only because of unwillingness by successive Labour and Conservative governments to pour millions of pounds into the provision of new equipment.

To update the plant, Mr Maxwell said, would cost several millions of pounds, but that was only peanuts to a company which was making high profits.

Of the five incidents at the plant this year the Health and Safety Executive said only one was potentially serious.

Mr Maxwell spoke of workers' reassurance that warning systems installed some years previously had proved capable of meeting the emergency.

"Because of undue secrecy the public have been bombarded by wild and hysterical claims made by opponents of nuclear energy," Mr Maxwell said.

"What they must realize is that as someone who has worked at the plant for 31 years and who cares deeply about his wife, children and grandchildren, there is no way that I or fellow workers would not be shouting from the rooftops if something was seriously wrong."

Mr Maxwell said that since the mid-1970s union officials had been pressing for a reduction in the radioactive exposure deemed safe by the International Medical Council.

That safety limit had now been reached. Liquid discharge had also dropped by 300 per cent since 1975. "We are not satisfied yet because we realize we have to be whiter than white but that dream is fast becoming realization."

Mr Bill Minto, chairman of the Sellafield Local Liaison Committee, an environmental watchdog group set up to monitor the nuclear plant, said a special meeting would be called to discuss the Health and Safety Executive findings in either late January or early February.

"The report comes as no great surprise. Work has already started to put right those things highlighted in this investigation, in particular the Magnox plant which they widely say is 20 or 30 years out of date."

"The experts have told us that if money is spent now on modern equipment then the plant have a safe and useful life for the next decade."

Mr Minto was pleased that management had accepted the report's criticisms and taken steps to implement its recommendations.

He issued a warning, however, that his committee would be keeping a watch on the implementation of the recommendations that more staff be taken on and better training be provided.

He could not say whether the extent of B15 strain was normal as no national studies had been done on this strain.

70 have harmful meningitis strain

Initial results from a huge meningitis screening exercise in Gloucestershire show that 70 people are carrying the new strain of the brain disease which has killed three children in the area (Jill Sherman writes).

Last month researchers set up an ambitious programme to swab throats and carry out blood tests on the 6,400 people in Stonehouse, Stroud, where the rate of meningitis is now 14 times the national average.

Results from the swabbing show that 700 people carried a variety of meningitis strains but only 70 carried the B15 strain.

Dr James Stuart, senior registrar in community medicine for Gloucester Health Authority said yesterday that the overall number of carriers — 11 per cent of the population — matched national figures and were quite normal. It did not mean these people would go on to develop the disease.

"Many people carry the disease without contracting it or passing it on and they may only carry it for a few days, weeks or months," Dr Stuart said.

He could not say whether the extent of B15 strain was normal as no national studies had been done on this strain.



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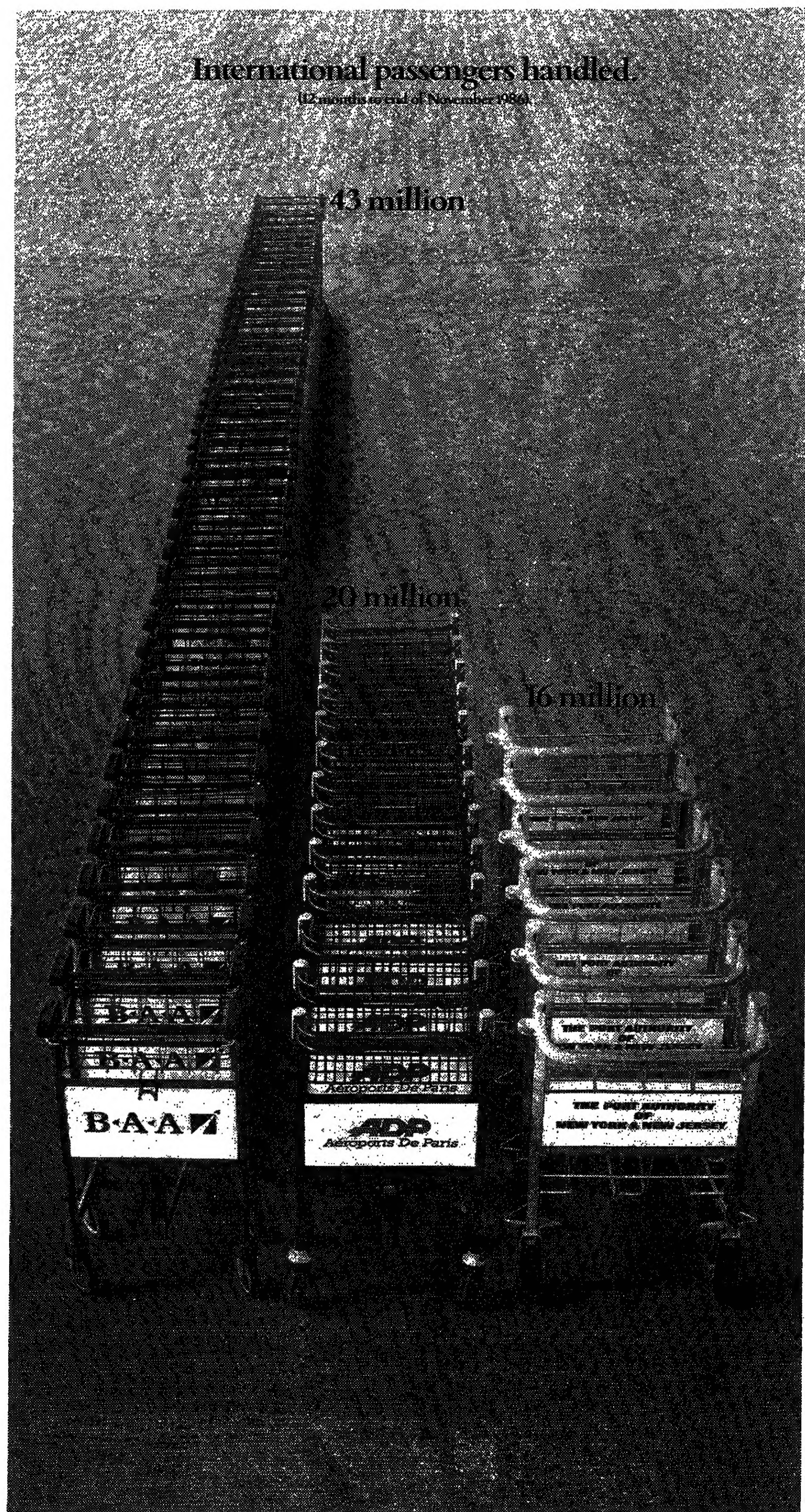
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Environment lobby accused of halting aviation progress

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

The Government was yesterday accused of "playing to the gallery" by making short-term decisions aimed at pacifying environmental pressure groups which could severely damage the long-term future of British aviation and the travelling public.

Airports capacity in the South-east will be filled by the end of the century, yet ministers refuse to "grasp the nettle" of planning for more runways because it is a long-term problem which they can hand on to future ministers, according to the Air Transport Users Committee.

The committee, set up by the Civil Aviation Authority to represent the views of the travelling public, wants a long-term air transport policy which would extend beyond the lifetime of any individual government.

"Civil aviation is not an ordinary industry subject to the forces of the market place," the committee's chairman, Mr John Cox, said.

"Government plays a major role. Unfortunately, governments of both parties have denied that role the importance it deserves. There has been too much playing to the gallery for short-term political considerations and a lack of long-term decision making."

"They take far too much notice of the so-called environmentalists because they make a great deal of noise, are articulate and are very effective in lobbying ministers. The Government takes notice of those who shout loudest."

He gave several examples of short-term decisions which caused more problems in the long term:

- The ending of the Heathrow-Gatwick helicopter link which both airlines and travellers regarded as vital but which was scrapped because of complaints about its noise.
- An analysis of competition in civil aviation generally which was finally dealt with as simply a battle between British Airways and British Caledonian.
- Maintaining Prestwick as a Scottish international gateway rather than developing an international hub airport which would have been far more effective in keeping Scottish air services.
- Decisions not to build a second runway at Gatwick or at Stansted when there is clear evidence that such a runway will be needed shortly.
- A delay in the completion of Gatwick's second passenger terminal which is expected to cause huge delays and chaos to holidaymakers next summer.

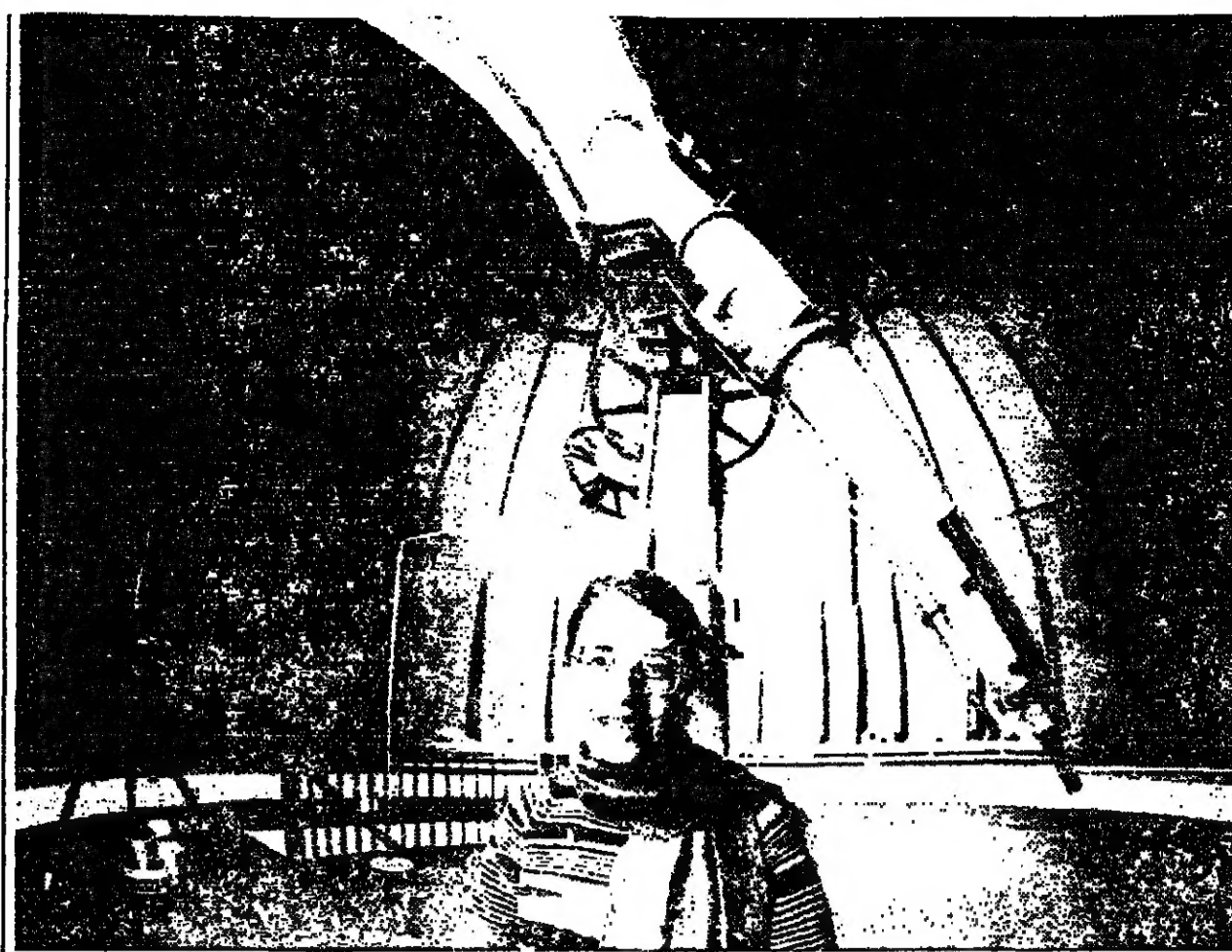
The committee also attacked airlines for failing to provide information which would enable a proper debate to be held on European air fares.

"We as consumers must have better access to this information," Mr Cox said. "This is something government could facilitate. We are no longer prepared to tolerate the smokescreen put up by some airlines in Europe that is simply designed to cover up their inefficient use of manpower and resources for which we travellers pay."

The committee is also continuing to press for the early introduction of smoke hoods on all passenger aircraft which could be worn in the event of a fire and which it is claimed, would have saved many lives in the recent Manchester airport disaster.

Further research work, probably involving members of the Armed Forces is now planned at Oxford University to refine the proposals for smoke hoods. A decision is expected by the Civil Aviation Authority next year.

But there is still concern among experts that the smoke hoods could cause more problems as people struggle to put them on and impede others trying to escape.



Dr Fiona Vincent with a 10in refracting telescope built in 1871 (Photograph: Arthur Foster).

Starry show will attract the crowds

By Kenneth Gosling

A shower of shooting stars this weekend is bound to attract an interested crowd to Britain's only full-time public observatory at Dundee.

It will be nothing new to Dr Fiona Vincent, city astronomer for the past four years, who has been gratified to note the growing numbers of visitors to the Mills Observatory at Balgay Park, which was given to Dundee in 1889 by Mr John Mills, an amateur astronomer.

Halley's Comet had something to do with increasing the popularity of the subject - in spite of poor conditions 800

visitors managed to see it. But Dr Vincent is rather glad things are back to normal, as the whole show is run by herself and one assistant. She admits that Halley's Comet put rather a strain on the system.

A measure of the observatory's continuing popularity is shown by the fact that only five nights are left in March for party visits.

During the winter 100 people can be found viewing on a clear night through various telescopes available to them.

The astronomy society has 50 members.

Dinosaur helps to win museum cash

The dinosaur found itself in the middle of a sophisticated "hard sell" marketing campaign at the Natural History Museum in London yesterday (Kenneth Gosling writes).

Museum officials called in newspapers and advertising agencies to launch a "world first" in boosting its services and trying to close the financial gaps which threaten it through to 1991.

As school parties wound their way among the glass cases, a plan to issue two million passports next year, coinciding with the introduction of museum charges on April 1, was unveiled as a new initiative to generate more funds.

Every visitor, whether paying or not, will be given a passport, each containing special offers, discounts and competitions; news about current and forthcoming events; a mini-map; suggestions for activities, and, of course, advertising.

From next April admission will continue to be free between 4.30 and 6pm as well as to school parties and educational institutions.

Everyone else will pay £2 a head, half price for pensioners and "non-party" children.

Gold rush fear after court's decision

Irish archaeologists fear a "gold rush" by metal detector enthusiasts after a High Court "finder's keepers" ruling which could possibly add £25.5 million to the bank balance of a wealthy farmer.

That is the value the judge put on the Derrynaflan hoard, unearthed in February 1980 at Littleton bog in Tipperary by Mr Michael Webb, aged 58, and his son Michael, aged 22, as they prospected near a fifth century Christian ruin with a metal detector.

Mr Webb refused a reward of £10,000 and took legal action for repossession of a complete ninth century altar set, the centrepiece of which is the jewel-studded gold and silver Derrynaflan chalice, restored for £23,000 by the British Museum. He won, and can keep the treasure or be paid the value.

Although the Irish National Museum has lodged an appeal to the Supreme Court, its director, Dr Brendan O'Riordan, and other archaeologists are clearly worried at the gold rush prospect.

He has said that he would have preferred the hoard to have remained underground for another 100 years, rather than have it found with a metal detector.

He fears there will be a mass plundering of monastic sites throughout the republic and is worried that the High Court ruling could lead to hundreds of litigation cases for objects previously found and handed over to the museum.

After the High Court ruling, Dr O'Riordan said he felt confident that the Supreme Court would take another view.

He disclosed that the museum had originally offered £200,000 to the Webbs in compensation, but this was overturned by the government, and reduced to £10,000.

Police told that race is a priority

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Police forces should make clear to ethnic minorities that tackling racial incidents is a priority, the Government said yesterday.

In reply to a House of Commons report on racial violence, the Government said it is to carry out a study of the incidence of racial violence in 1987 and research the response of police and other agencies to it.

The Commons home affairs committee's recommendation that police should press charges against attackers, rather than rely on private prosecutions by the victims, is being discussed with the Crown Prosecution Service and the Association of Chief Police Officers.

An inter-departmental working group, reporting to the Ministerial Group on Crime Prevention, has called for more police action to tackle racial attacks.

National statistics showing the number of racial attacks are not available but the Runnymede Trust, a

Doctor 'rejected patient'

A heroin addict was refused treatment by a Harley Street psychiatrist when she lost her job, a disciplinary hearing was told yesterday.

Dr Ann Dally, aged 60, stopped helping the woman after she ran up a bill for more than £200, the General Medical Council committee was told.

The former hospital telephonist, identified only as Miss B, said: "I was not formally discharged. She just said don't come unless you have the money to pay me."

Miss B said Dr Dally stopped treating her soon after she lost her job in April last year. It was only after Miss B went to a detoxification unit that she learned her addiction, the council's professional conduct committee was told.

Miss B, aged 28, from Buckinghamshire, said Dr Dally was "renowned" for not referring her patients to drying out centres.

The committee was told Miss B and her boyfriend visited Dr Dally for two and a half years at her surgery in Devonshire Place, Marylebone, central London. She charged the couple £45 per consultation. She added: "I only ever spent five or 10 minutes with Dr Dally and I was never in London for more than half an hour."

Dr Dally denies two charges of serious professional misconduct by irresponsibly prescribing the heroin substitute methadone and not properly checking on the background of one of her patients.

The hearing continues.

Protection for Civil Servants criticized

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The chairmen of Commons select committees are to produce a "robust" report highlighting their opposition to government plans to instruct Civil Servants not to answer questions about their conduct.

The main thrust of the report is understood to have been agreed unanimously at a private meeting of the liaison committee of chairmen yesterday, and the final version will be published as soon as possible.

The report will reject any attempt to curb the powers of select committees, and argue that the Government's proposed instructions would in some instances make their work impossible.

The report will concentrate on the practical implications of the instructions, but it is supported by another report published by the Treasury and

Call to license crossbows to stop rustlers

The Farmers' Union of Wales yesterday called for crossbows to be licensed in an attempt to stop sheep rustlers.

Mr Brian Edwards, the Ffuw Gwent branch secretary, said crossbows are used because they are silent and deadly. He said thefts often go undetected for long periods as rustlers take only a few sheep from each farm.

A private member's Bill was unveiled in Parliament this week to control the sale of crossbows, but Mr Edwards said they should also be licensed so owners could be traced.

Hotel is sold for £2.6m

Ladbroke's have bought the 54-bedroom Felbridge Hotel at East Grinstead, West Sussex, for £2.6 million.

Proposed for the hotel, which began as tearooms in 1935 and was rebuilt after a fire in 1981, include adding 20 bedrooms and conference and training facilities.

Slim vehicle

A slimline fire engine costing £38,000 has been delivered to Gloucestershire Fire Brigade for use in the county's narrow lanes.

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WORLD SUMMARY

Guerrillas 'kill 1,000 tribesmen'

Dhaka — Bangladeshi Government officials claimed here yesterday that at least 1,000 people had been killed since 1975 by tribal guerrillas fighting for secession in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region (Ahmed Fazi writes).

Amnesty International had accused the Government of having violated human rights in the Hills during its campaign to contain the war waged by the outlawed Shanti Bahini (peace force) guerrillas.

The Government said that the victims included 43 tribesmen shot by guerrillas for having allegedly collaborated with the security forces. It also claimed that 500 Bengali Muslim settlers had been killed in ethnic clashes with Buddhist tribesmen between 1975 and 1981. It gave no figures for guerrillas or troops killed in the fighting.

An estimated 15,000 regular soldiers and paramilitary border guards are deployed in the Hills to fight the guerrillas, who are demanding the expulsion of Bengali settlers and a separate homeland for the 500,000 Chakma and Marma tribesmen.

Laureate's peace call

Oslo (Reuters) — The winner of the 1986 Nobel peace prize, the Romanian-born Jewish author and human rights campaigner Elie Wiesel, yesterday called for better relations between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

"I would like to see this people, my people, able to establish the foundation for a constructive relationship with all its Arab neighbours, as it has done with Egypt. We must exert pressure on all those in power to come to terms," he said in a Nobel lecture at Oslo University.

Mr Wiesel, aged 58, a survivor of Hitler's concentration camps, was presented with the Nobel Peace Prize on Wednesday.

Falklands Israeli air permits

Madrid — Spanish fishing fleets are expected to be given 35 licences to operate in the fishing conservation zone around the Falkland Islands for the season beginning in February (Richard Wigg writes).

Among those applying has been the fleet belonging to the Azumar Co-operative based on Vigo, in Galicia, north-western Spain. It is one of the best equipped for catching squid.

The 150-mile conservation zone was announced on October 29, and Spain signed with Argentina in the sovereignty dispute.

Israeli air attack

Beirut — Israeli Air Force jets yesterday attacked Palestinian guerrilla bases in Syria-controlled territory in northern Lebanon (Juan Carlos Guncio writes).

Reports from the port of Tripoli said that four people were killed and six wounded during the raid, near the Palestinian refugee camp of Naher al-Bared.

Israeli military authorities in Tel Aviv claimed that outposts of the Fatah Revolutionary Council of the notorious Abu Nidal were among the targets hit.

Concession on Sikhs

Delhi — Britain has agreed during two days of discussions with the Indian Government to look at the possibility of changing British laws to crack down on Sikhs who are encouraging terrorist activities in India (Michael Haslun writes).

A joint statement makes clear that the British team at the Delhi talks, led by Mr Timothy Renton, right, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, want a long way towards meeting some of the objections of the Indians to what they see as "leniency" in Britain towards people advocating the establishment of Khalistan as a separate Sikh state. But such changes are likely to meet objections from a strong lobby within Parliament, and within the Conservative Party, worried by the erosion of freedom of speech.



Junta pair called

Athens — A parliamentary committee has decided to summon two jailed Greek Junta leaders, Colonel George Papadopoulos and Brigadier Dimitrios Ioannides, to testify in an investigation into the 1974 Greek-backed coup on Cyprus (A Correspondent writes).

The 30-member panel has interviewed 47 officials since it was formed in February.

Veteran deported

Bangkok — An American hero of the Vietnam war, former Colonel James "Bo" Grizz, was deported from Thailand for the second time in three weeks (Neil Kelly writes).

Mr Grizz, who is persona non grata because of secret missions into Laos to look for American prisoners, was twice caught with a false passport. The first time he was sent to Singapore and then Hong Kong.

South African censorship

Newspapers faced with blanket of silence under Pretoria's rules

From Michael Horanby, Johannesburg

South Africa's harsh new press controls, announced yesterday in the form of a proclamation signed by President Botha in the *Government Gazette*, impose a sweeping form of pre-publication censorship which has never previously been resorted to in this country.

President Botha's proclamation was issued under the Public Safety Act of 1953, the law which empowers him to declare a state of emergency. It incorporates and extends greatly the emergency press regulations already in force in one form or another since June 12.

The new measures, which apply to both local and foreign journalists based here, list a wide range of "subversive statements" and anti-government activity which cannot be written about unless the reports have been cleared in advance by government officials.

Although statements in Parliament will still be privileged, the regulations will for the first time restrict the reporting of public court proceedings in which final judgement has not yet been given.

Once judgement has been given, it will be possible to report such evidence. Any other news or comment on the arrest and detention of emergency detainees will be subjected to official clearance before it can be published.

The Commissioner of Police and the Minister of Home Affairs are empowered to seize publications which contain prohibited material, and to close down for three months at a time any newspaper or periodical which persists in publishing material after having been warned.

The Government's Bureau for Information is to set up an office, manned 24 hours a day, to which journalists will be expected to submit, by telex, articles or parts of articles containing matter falling within the ambit of the new censorship rules. The onus will be on the journalist to observe this procedure.

Newspapers are also prohibited from leaving blank spaces to indicate that textual or

The regulation on blank spaces in newspapers and magazines reads in full: "No person shall publish any publication in which any blank space or any obliteration or deletion of part of the text of a report or of a photograph or part of a photograph appears, if that blank space, obliteration or deletion, as may appear from an express statement or a sign or symbol in that publication or from the particular context in which the blank space, obliteration or deletion appears, is intended to be understood as a reference to the effect of a provision of these regulations."

photographic material has had to be deleted at the request of the censors. It appears, however, that they will be allowed to carry statements advising readers that copy has been censored.

There is no indication of how long it will take for an article to be cleared, banned or amended. A journalist who publishes restricted or deleted matter without authority will be liable to a fine of 20,000 rand (\$6,250) or 10 years in prison, or imprisonment without the option of a fine.

Publish — and be banned

From Our Own Correspondent

South African editors and journalists, and foreign correspondents based here, are still trying to digest the full implications of the sweeping new press controls imposed yesterday, which are far in excess of anything they have previously experienced.

"We will publish as much as we can, but with due prudence," Mr Anthony Heard, editor of the *Cape Times*, said.

"We must not take this lying down. I think there could still be room for challenging the regulations in the courts. We are still not quite in the Cambodia league, though we have clearly crossed a watershed."

Previous regulations, particularly those restricting the reporting of "subversive statements", were enforced considerably by Supreme Court judgements which found that many of the regulations had been so sweeping and arbitrary in their scope, as to be *ultra vires*.

At first glance, the revised and reinforced regulations contained in yesterday's proclamation appear to be much more carefully and precisely worded, and deliberately designed to close the loopholes discovered by the courts.

It is going to require some

highly creative advocacy, and sympathetic judges, to get round the new controls.

Pretoria's aim, beyond much doubt, is to prevent anything except government-approved news and opinion being published about matters covered by the omnibus term "unrest" — which includes not only actual violence and riots, but a wide range of extra-parliamentary opposition, protest and civil disobedience.

The previous regulations were onerous enough. They prohibited all journalists from being on the scene of unrest, or from reporting the actions of the security forces without official permission, though it is fair to acknowledge that they were not enforced to the letter in the case of foreign journalists, and were always more stringent on paper than in practice.

Writing journalists, at least, could still report at second hand, using their own contacts, on unrest incidents.

Reporting of boycotts, strikes and other forms of protest covered by the new regulations were also not subject to any form of pre-publication vetting, as will now be the case.

Bending of the rules became common even in the reporting of police and army action. The government is said to have

been infuriated by the device used by Johannesburg's evening newspaper, *The Star*, of printing, deadpan, the official version of police action alongside the usually radically different version given by township residents.

All such reports will now have to be sifted through the Bureau of Information.

This will limit severely any uncensored reporting not only of unrest but also of the activities of organizations like the United Democratic Front, the broad alliance of grassroots anti-apartheid organizations.

Papers like the *Weekly Mail*, started by journalists who formerly worked on the now defunct *Rand Daily Mail*, and *New Nation*, which is funded by a black political activist, Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu, will find it particularly hard to operate as they specialize in covering black resistance to the government.

The sheer practicality of the censorship machinery is also in question. There will initially be six telex machines in the Bureau of Information to handle copy that may be submitted for clearance by both domestic newspapers and journalists and the more than 100 foreign journalists here.

French protest au lait



A French milk producer throwing a churn of milk in front of the administrative centre at Rennes early yesterday morning to protest against low milk prices. More than 100 militant members of the local farmers' union staged similar demonstrations throughout Brittany.

Vote leaves EEC without budget

Strasbourg (Reuters) — The European Parliament, in a move which effectively leaves the EEC without a 1987 budget, yesterday voted to increase spending next year by more than its legal margin.

But M Pierre Pflimlin, president of the European Parliament, has said he will not sign what would be an illegal budget.

The vote came after senior Euro-MPs and budget ministers failed after more than 10 hours of talks to agree on new spending priorities for 1987.

The Strasbourg Assembly was keen for more cash for social and regional spending, and for research and aid programmes now threatened by runaway farm expenditure.

The failure to settle a budget forces the EEC, already facing a budget shortfall next year of nearly \$4 billion (about £2.7 billion), on to an emergency financing system from January.

Mr Henning Christophersen, the EEC Budget Commissioner, told journalists the situation faced by the Community was now "very, very serious indeed".

He said both sides had fallen out over a microscopic amount in relation to the entire budget. He said there had been a regrettable lack of political will to reach an accord.

Cap defended: As British attempts to find a formula to curb the excesses of the EEC's Common Agricultural Policy (Cap) continued, the French Ambassador to Britain yesterday came to its defence (Andrew McEwan writes).

M Luc de La Barre de Nanteuil said that too much importance was being attached to a policy that cost the equivalent of only 0.6 per cent of the gross national product of the EEC.

Its problems were those of success, he told the French Chamber of Commerce. While a recent series of articles in *The Times* had presented Cap as wholly bad, it was not without advantages.

While admitting that Cap cost 70 per cent of the EEC budget, he pointed out that Britain's contribution was only 18 per cent against 21 per cent for France and more than 25 per cent for West Germany.

His remarks came between two sessions of the 12 Agriculture Ministers in Brussels seeking cuts in dairy and beef production. After failing to agree earlier this week the ministers have been called to a special weekend session tomorrow.

BRUSSELS: Fears that the Common Market plans to propose a new single rate of Value Added Tax (VAT) on books and learned journals prompted the launch yesterday of an anti-VAT campaign by the European Book Publishers' Association (Our Correspondent writes).

In Britain, Ireland and Portugal books are zero rated for VAT. But in other countries VAT ranges from 2 per cent in Italy to 22 per cent in Denmark.

Japanese drag feet on Scotch

From Our Correspondent Brussels

When the Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr Tadashi Kuranari, meets Sir Geoffrey Howe here today he will have disappointing news for the Scotch whisky industry.

According to diplomatic sources in the European Community, the Japanese delegation came to Brussels this week without any concrete proposals for opening up the Japanese liquor market to imported spirits.

The Trade and Industry Minister, Mr Hadjime Tamara, is said to have told the Europeans that no legislation has yet been drawn up to change a tax system that discriminates against foreign products.

Although the Japanese Cabinet recently gave the go-ahead for the Finance Ministry to draw up new legislation, Mr Tamara spoke of "the long procedures" involved in changing laws that would have a harsh effect on local distillers.

The news will be particularly hard because the £140 million-a-year spirits export trade has taken on an importance beyond its real significance in the overall trade between Japan and Europe.

It has become a test case for the EEC's ability to force a change in Japanese attitudes on imports.

Name of the game in French

From Diana Geddes Paris

What is the most popular name for a child in France today? Marcel? Jeanne? Jean-Pierre? Odette? No, those are all now definitely passé.

Emilie and Julien top the popularity charts, with Anglo-Saxon names such as Kevin and Marion gaining ground.

A study of Christian names just published by two sociologists, shows that names have cycles of popularity before going out of fashion.

Until the beginning of this century, a French child was given the name of a parent or close relatives, of the saint on whose day he was born, or of godparents. Over the past 80 years, however, the choice has been much more varied.

Among girls, Marie was most popular in the early years of the century. At the outbreak of the First World War, Jeanne took over. Then came Jeanine or Janine (1927-35); Monique (1936-43); Danielle (1944-7); Françoise (1948-50); Martine (1951-8); Brigitte (1959); Sylvie (1960-4); Nathalie (1965-72); Sandrine (1973); Stéphanie (1973-7); Céline (1978-80); Aurélie (1981-4); and Emilie since 1985.

Among boys, Jean was supreme for 25 years (1913-37); followed by Michel (1938-55); Patrick (1956-8); Philippe (1959-63); Thierry (1964-5); Philippe (1966); Christophe (1967-8); Stéphane (1970-5); Sébastien (1976-9); Nicolas (1980-2); and Julien since 1983.

Astonishment on Capitol Hill as congressmen investigate the Iran arms scandal

CIA head reveals Canada connection

From Michael Binyon Washington

The first week of hearings on the Iran affair by the House of Representatives ends today, leaving congressmen astonished at some of the secret testimony and provoking further controversy over the role of the Central Intelligence Agency and its director, Mr William Casey.

Committee members said afterwards they had learnt that the scandal involved new characters, whom they would not identify. They said that, despite Mr Casey's frequent assertions during his five-hour testimony that he did not know many of the answers, he had revealed a Canadian connection to the Iran arms sales and the diversion of funds to the Nicaraguan Contras.

The *Washington Post* said yesterday that this involved a group of Canadians, who had financed the US arms shipments to Iran but did not receive the money they were owed and were threatening in October to file a lawsuit to expose the clandestine operation.

Mr Casey had reportedly learnt about this from a former New York legal client, who had telephoned him on October 7 and told him that the arms profits were going to Central America. He told the committee members that this was his first inkling that funds generated by the arms deal were perhaps being diverted for another purpose.

Mr Gerry Studds, a Massachusetts Democrat on the committee, said there was

"pretty universal astonishment" at Mr Casey's testimony, and "a lot of open mouths in the room". Another member said the puzzle was "very far from complete".

And the chairman of the House foreign affairs committee, Mr Dante Fascell, said that, when "all the dots are linked", it would certainly be "extraordinary".

Meanwhile, Mr Adnan Khashoggi, a Saudi Arabian arms dealer, has admitted that he initiated the sale of arms to Iran, but said he knew nothing of the Iranian payments being used to help the Contras.

He said on television that,

in an effort to bring peace to the Middle East, he wrote to Mr Robert McFarlane, then the National Security Adviser, on July 1 last year, offering to put him in contact with Iranian moderates. He said copies of the letter were sent to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, President Mubarak of Egypt and King Hussein of Jordan.

He said after the letter was sent, Mr Manushir Ghorbanifar, an Iranian arms dealer, and other Iranians met Mr David Kimche, then Director-General of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, and Israeli arms dealers in Hamburg. After that meeting, Mr

Kimche met Mr McFarlane and got what the Israelis saw as a go-ahead for the sales, he said.

Mr Khashoggi said there was no mention at the time of the American hostages in Lebanon.

He told ABC Television that when the Iranians learnt they were dealing with the Israelis, Ayatollah Khomeini declared: "We deal with the Devil for our own objectives."

He said two more arms shipments followed, with funds supplied by financiers in Canada and the Cayman Islands, which were paid into a Swiss bank account.

The men digging into the mess

From Moksia Ali, Washington

For all government intelligence operations at home and abroad, its closed hearings began on Tuesday.

● Select committees: Leaders of the House and Senate agreed last week to form separate Watergate-style committees. The committees will be created by separate resolutions in each chamber immediately after the new Congress convenes on January 6. The Senate panel will include six Democrats, five Republicans and one non-voting *ex officio* member from each party, the House panel of nine Democrats and six Republicans.

● House of Representatives: Chairman, Mr Dante Fascell (Democrat, Florida). The committee heard testimony in open session from Mr George Shultz, Secretary of State, and

Mr Robert McFarlane, former National Security Adviser, on Monday. Vice-Admiral John Poindexter and Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North appeared before it on Tuesday, but took the Fifth Amendment and refused to answer questions. The committee is also seeking a wide range of documents concerning the case.

● Justice Department: Launched a full-scale criminal investigation on November 26. Its investigation is expected to end when an independent counsel (prosecutor) is appointed.

● Independent inquiry: The Justice Department last week asked a three-judge court to appoint a counsel and to approve a mandate to investigate illegalities related to the arms sales and the diversion of funds.

UN debate fails to cool strife

From Zoriana Pysariwsky New York

The war of words between Nicaragua and Honduras has escalated in the United Nations Security Council, despite efforts by the Sandinista Government to avoid a confrontation on the ground by playing down the Honduran role in the weekend straining of Nicaraguan targets.

During the debate on Wednesday night each side charged the other with aggression and responsibility for the recent border clashes.

Señora Nora Estorzo, the Nicaraguan representative, accused the US of state terrorism.

She said that the Reagan Administration was seeking to manipulate Honduras and other countries in laying the groundwork for a war "of major proportions" in the region, and accused Honduras of having completely fabricated charges that 2,500 Nicaraguan troops were on Honduran territory.

Señor Roberto Martínez, the Honduran delegate, vowed that military action against Sandinista forces would cease only when every Nicaraguan soldier had been removed from Honduran territory.

General Vernon Walters, the US Ambassador, described Nicaragua's request for a Security Council meeting as "an act of astonishing duplicity and arrogance".

Kidnap shadow on Basque politics

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Señor José Benegas, the Socialist leader in the Basque country, yesterday began negotiations to form a new government after last month's general election against the grim background of a suspected Eta kidnapping.

Police were searching for Señor Jaime Caballero, a politically well-connected San Sebastián industrialist, who they suspect was seized on Wednesday by the armed separatist organization while going to one of two nearby paper factories owned by his family.

So far Eta has not claimed responsibility, but the Madrid Government representative in the autonomous region said he believed the kidnapping was due to Eta's need for funds as well as the desire to "intervene" in the government-forming process.

Señor Benegas, who needs some 20 MPs from other parties to support him in the 75-seat Basque Parliament, blamed Eta for seeking to create a politically tense atmosphere.

The industrialist, aged 44, is a friend of the Basque Nationalist Party, which has ruled until now, and his father was a prominent local politician and banker.

Eta killed the Military Governor of San Sebastián and his wife and son in October and the industrial district where the family factory is situated is known locally as an area after businessmen have refused to pay the so-called "revolutionary tax".

During the past 10 years 39

businessmen in the Basque country have been kidnapped. Families have often secretly paid the ransom because the authorities have not been able to protect them adequately.

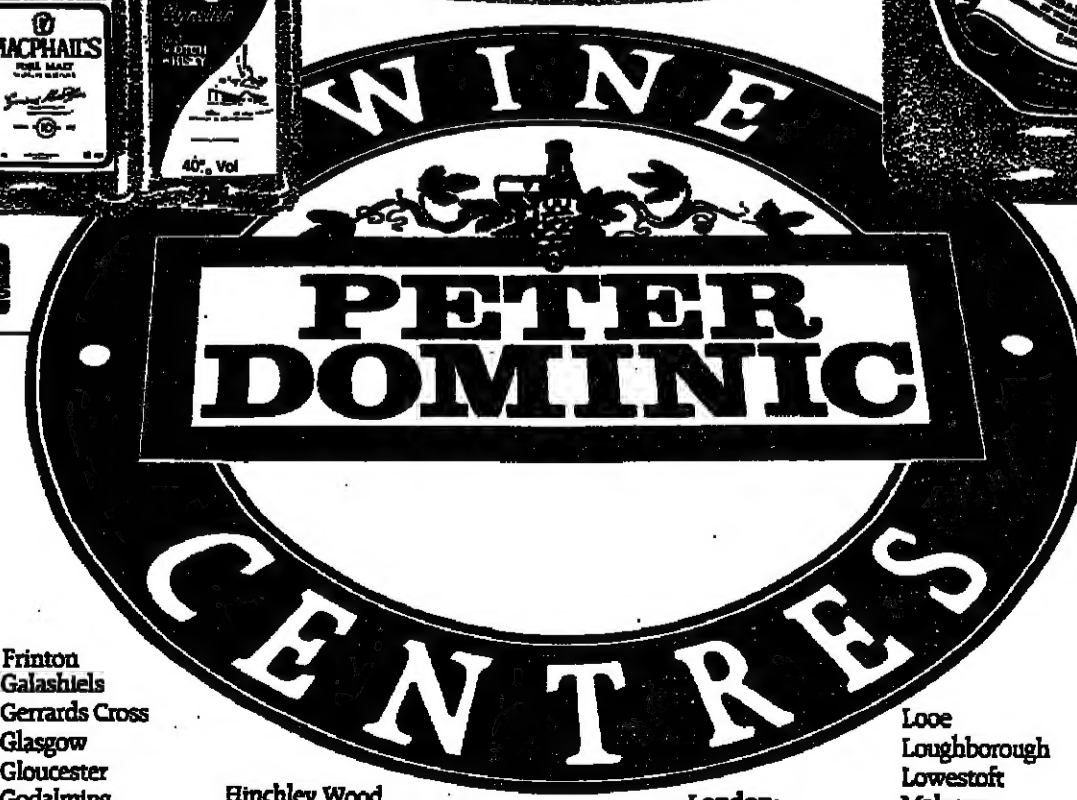
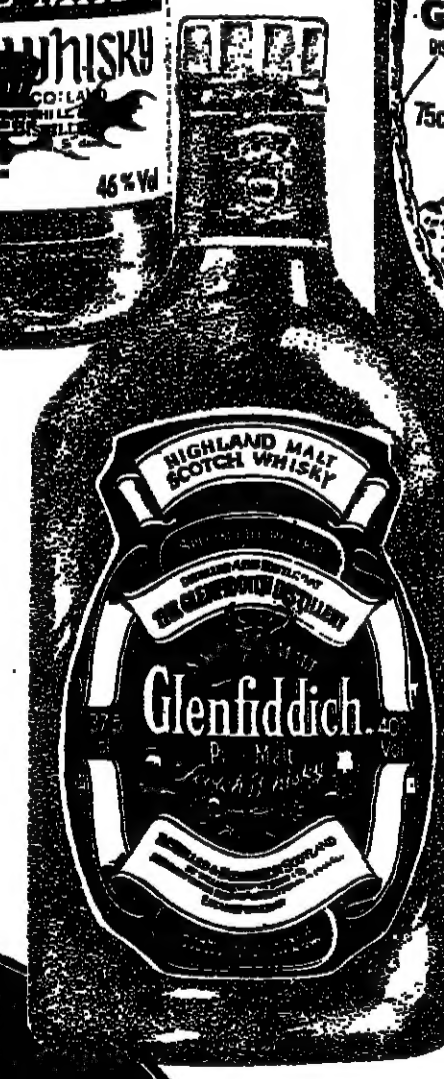
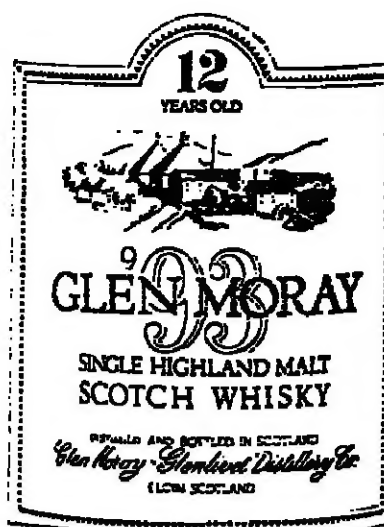
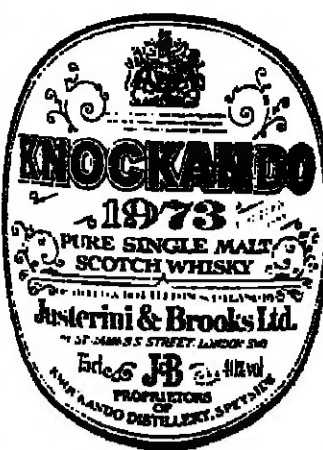
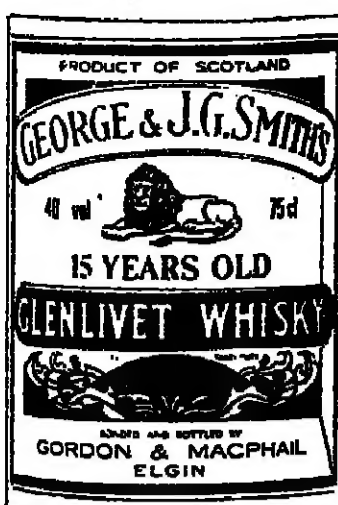
The Socialists desire haste, above all, in getting a coalition government, which the election result made inevitable, off the ground. But no party has yet got beyond preliminary gestures.

Señor Benegas began negotiations yesterday with the small Basque Left, which is ideologically closest to the Socialists. But the party he wants to persuade is the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV), which may decide at a weekend gathering of local party leaders whether to go into opposition.

Señor Benegas has only ruled out talks with the People's Unity coalition, the political wing of Eta.

The Basque Solidarity Party, formed after the split of the hitherto ruling party in the region, whose support Señor Benegas might also have to look to, is proposing withdrawal of all Spanish security forces as an opening gambit for joining a government.

Meanwhile, the 100-odd Basques serving sentences for terrorist offences in the maximum security prison outside Madrid have begun what they call a "campaign of civil disobedience". Yesterday they staged hourly protests, seeking to damage prison property. They are demanding better treatment than the common criminal inmates.



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Bonn holds civil servant for link with 'spy' and charges secretary

From John England, Bonn

A high-ranking civil servant in the West German Defence Ministry has been arrested on suspicion of spying for East Germany, while at the same time it was revealed yesterday that a former secretary in the Federal President's Office has been charged with spying for the KGB.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said that the civil servant, named as Herr Jürgen Westphal, aged 48, had worked in the department of the armed forces chief-of-staff since 1980 on planning studies. He had been under surveillance for months and was arrested on Tuesday.

A military counter-intelligence agent said that he could have done serious damage to Bonn because he had access to military planning and to the armed forces computer.

Dr Kurt Rebmann, the Federal Public Prosecutor, said that Herr Westphal was suspected of having offered to work for an "eastern" secret service. He had had a two-day

meeting in Vienna in August with a man calling himself Dr Sternberg, who had visited his home in Bonn a few weeks before.

Dr Sternberg, who had introduced himself as a representative of a foreign arms firm, had asked Herr Westphal to work for his company "on the side", he said.

Dr Rebmann said that so far the questioning of Herr Westphal suggested that he had not carried out any espionage work before his arrest.

He added that the case of Frau Margarete Höke, aged 51, who was a secretary in the Federal President's Office from June 1959 until her arrest in August 1985 and a wave of spy scandals in Bonn, was much more serious.

He told a press conference in Karlsruhe that he had raised charges against her on November 29 on suspicion of having spied for the KGB from 1968 until the time of her arrest.

Between 1972 and July

1985, he said, Frau Höke had had access to more than 1,700 documents classified confidential, secret or top secret. Most had come from the foreign, interior and defence ministries as well as from the chancellery. They included reports on Cabinet meetings and federal intelligence service affairs.

Dr Rebmann said Frau Höke had given her KGB spy-master copies of many of the documents, including briefings for successive federal presidents on foreign and defence questions. She had also betrayed secret reports from Bonn's diplomatic missions around the world as well as information on civil defence measures in Germany.

Cabinet decisions on the appointments or promotions of senior officials were also passed on to the KGB, he said.

The charges against her have been raised in the Düsseldorf High Court, where she is expected to go on trial early next year.

Life-and-death struggle with a lioness



From Michael Hartnack, Harare

Paul Bekker, aged 32, a Zimbabwean farmer, recovering in a hospital bed in Harare from wounds he received after stabbing a lioness to the heart in a 10-minute life-and-death struggle. His 16-month-old daughter, Carolle, is with him. Mr Bekker, of Marondera, was one of a 16-member party from the Dutch Reformed Church who were combining Scripture lessons with nature study on a canoe safari down the Zambezi river. They camped on Tuesday at Rakomeshe Rest Hut, downstream from the Chirundu border post,

between Zimbabwe and Zambia, when Mr Bekker and two companions, the Rev John Oosthuisen and Mr Piet Britz, were woken by the lioness, who forced her way into their hut through the door and seized Mr Bekker by the leg.

His companions rushed out of the hut and brought Mr Bekker a hunting knife, with which he stabbed the lioness to the heart. He was given immediate first aid by two medical students from another canoe party and rushed to hospital in Harare.

US says Israelis too quick to shoot

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

The United States has told Israel that it considers an excessive use was made of guns in dealing with the unrest in the occupied territories over the past week.

The political officer at the American Embassy in Tel Aviv, Mr Roger Harrison, passed on this view to Mr Michael Shilo, director of the North America division at the Foreign Ministry, during a meeting to seek clarification about what led to four people being killed and 21 others wounded, some seriously, by gunfire. Another 37 needed treatment for injuries.

Mr Harrison accepted that there had been great provocation to the security forces trying to control the often violent demonstrations, but questioned the need for troops to fire live ammunition so often to break them up.

The meeting, at a relatively low diplomatic level, was arranged after the United States refused to veto a UN Security Council resolution this week which condemned Israel over events in the territories.

Demonstrations and protests continued yesterday both in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, although on a much-reduced scale. The worst reported incident was at a UN school in the Gaza Strip, which is out of bounds to Israeli soldiers; troops fired several gas canisters at girls in the playground after stones had been thrown.

During the week-long disturbances Israeli security forces have made 176 arrests, largely for stone-throwing. Six of those captured, from the Tulkarm refugee camp west of Nablus, have already been sentenced to up to six months imprisonment, along with fines of between £800 and £1,200 each.

On the Israeli side, an inquiry is continuing into who fired the shot which killed a 12-year-old Palestinian boy at Balata refugee camp near Nablus on Monday. The Israeli army insists that its patrol there fired only after the boy was taken dying to hospital. Palestinians are adamant that nobody in the camp has a gun.

Investigators are trying to trace a car, seen near the camp at the time of the shooting, which may have been carrying militant Israeli settlers. The settlements in areas like this, deep in the West Bank, are usually the homes of militant nationalists. They are allowed to carry guns for protection, and Palestinians claim they are only too eager to use them.

The wave of violent protests has roused the anger of the settler movement at a time when it is growing suspicious that the government will go back on its undertaking to build six more such colonies in the occupied territories.

Leaders of Gush Emunim, the militant settler movement, are threatening to organize strikes and sit-ins where they want to settle if the government does not honour its commitment quickly. Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, has now promised: "If the economic situation allows it, Likud will act for the establishment of additional settlements."

French in new atoll atom test

Wellington (Reuters) — The French Government yesterday exploded its eighth nuclear device this year at the South Pacific test site on Mururoa Atoll, according to New Zealand scientists. The blast was the 83rd since 1975.

Cold cash

Buenos Aires (Reuters) — Argentina became the first country to open a bank in Antarctica when the state-owned Bank of the National Territory of Tierra del Fuego, Antarctica and South Atlantic Islands opened a branch at Esperanza military base.

Weighty move

Ankara (Reuters) — Turkey has granted political asylum to the weightlifting champion of Bulgaria, Naim Suleymanov, an ethnic Turk who disappeared in Australia this week. Foreign Ministry officials said.

Pope's plea

Vatican City (Reuters) — The Pope, in his 1987 peace message, begged terrorists to give up violence even if their cause was just, saying that they undermined the very fabric of society.

Cheat's end

Peking (Reuters) — Zhang Zhiping, a factory employee who embezzled 117,000 yuan (£21,700) by issuing false receipts and stealing his company's coal, has been executed, China's official Central Television Station said.

Iraq attack

Baghdad (Reuters) — Iraq said that its military aircraft had attacked a large naval target — its usual term for an oil tanker or cargo ship — in the Gulf, according to a military spokesman.

Copper Belt still tense as army takes control

From Michael Hartnack, Harare

The Zambian Army was said yesterday to be in control of the tense situation on the country's Copper Belt after a week of rioting in which eight people have died and hundreds of others were injured.

Pitched battles have raged on a scale unprecedented even in the violence before Zambia gained independence from Britain 22 years ago. Public anger exploded at a 110 per cent increase in the price of maize meal, the country's staple food.

Only sporadic incidents of stone throwing were reported yesterday in the main Copper Belt towns of Ndola, Kitwe and Mufulira, where security forces maintained the dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed by President Kaunda.

No unrest was reported in the volatile squatter townships around the Zambian capital, but some traders in Lusaka were preparing shutters in case the looting spread. Members of Zambia's small Asian community have been the main victims of the attacks on shops.

Mr Kaunda maintained his ban on outgoing traffic at Zambia's land borders, stranding dozens of Zimbabwean transport drivers en route from Harare to Zaire.

The Government said that the border closure was to stop loot being smuggled from the country. However, Zambia's airports were open and flights were departing as usual.

The rioting was triggered by an increase from about 3.8 kwacha to 8.2 kwacha (19p-41p) for a kilogram of maize meal. The kwacha has lost 90 per cent of its value over the

past year and is now worth about 5p.

The subsidy on maize meal maintained by the Government — the last vestige of a policy of using copper revenues to buy cheap imported food — was slashed in order to secure a loan of \$280 million (about £187 million) from the International Monetary Fund.

Zambia has now accrued about £2.7 billion in foreign debt and is faced with a slump in revenues from copper, its only important export. Local farming has been discouraged by years of price undercutting by unrestricted imports from developed countries.

Observers in Harare are dismayed by the outbreak of violence, which for 14 years withstood a sanctions war with Rhodesia, when an economic confrontation with South Africa may be imminent.

At the height of the copper belt rioting the forces used shotguns to blast their way through barricades when tear-gas and baton charges failed.

Leading article, page 19

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A notice convening the Annual General Meeting, giving details of time and venue, will be circulated in due course.

J.A. Lashbrook
Chief Executive Officer
December 1986.

Economic crisis in the Philippines

Two years of hard slog will need international support

From David Watts
Manila

The Philippines is struggling for economic survival, and its ministers give it only two years to try to avoid a catastrophe.

If democracy is to be made secure, international investment must come soon to fight poverty and unemployment.

Even if things go well, it will be the 1990s before it can recover the standard of living of four years ago, so destructive has been the combination of low world prices for its primary products, the weight of its international debt and the greed and incompetence of the ousted President Marcos and his cronies.

One leading foreign economist is more gloomy about the country's prospects even than the Philippines Government: "There is no light at the end of the tunnel."

There are, however, occasional glimmers of hope that the Government seizes, like the 2.5 per cent improvement in the gross national product in the third quarter, the first expansion of GNP after 2½ years of decline, it could mean an annual GNP growth of between zero and 0.5 per cent. But if social and political chaos is to be staved off, the

Government believes that a GNP growth rate of 6.5 per cent will be needed.

On the credit side, the Government of President Aquino has the prospect of political stability with the departure from the Government of the Defence Minister, Mrs. Juan Ponce Enrile, a ceasefire with the Communist insurgents, and the expected overwhelming endorsement of a new constitution in early February. Inflation is virtually non-existent and the peso exchange rate stable.

Although new investment in the first 10 months of the year was down on the previous year, Mr. Jose Concepcion, Minister of Trade and Industry, says that for the first time in many years Filipinos invested more in their country than did foreigners.

On the debit side, high hopes of more Japanese investment raised during Mrs. Aquino's visit to Tokyo have been dampened by the kidnapping of the local manager of the Mitsui Trading Company.

The Japanese, however, are expected to resume their interest once the situation is clarified. The number of strikes is up by 61 per cent over last year, but the number

of man-days lost by only 8 per cent.

Sorting out the mess left by Mr Marcos has taken time. But now a programme for the economy has been agreed which will run to the end of Mrs Aquino's tenure in 1992.

The Philippines is a classic example of how World Bank and IMF development schemes and loans can result in a Third World country's boring itself into a seemingly bottomless pit of debt.

Mrs Solita Monsod, Minister of Economic Planning, argues that the highly-paid representatives in Manila of international banks and institutions, who must have known that Mr Marcos and his cronies were creaming off huge portions of each new loan, must now take some of the responsibility for the present situation. She demands repudiation, or at least a further moratorium, on some of the Philippines' debts.

Forty per cent of the 1987 budget will go to finance payments on the \$26,000 million (£18,000 million) national debt, and unless some of that is repudiated, or much more generous terms permitted, there will not be the money to develop the industry needed to get the country back on its feet.

Talks with the IMF have been delayed and are not expected to resume until early next year. Negotiations with the Paris Club, which includes Britain, are due to resume later this month.

It is hard to believe that in the 1960s the Philippines was one of Asia's bright economic hopes, second only to Japan. Today the rest of Asia, apart from Vietnam and Cambodia, has left it hopelessly adrift after 20 wasted years under President Marcos. Sixty per cent of the people are on the poverty line. In sugar-growing areas people are starving.

The electronics revolution has come and gone, and the Philippines has picked up little of the sunrise industry that goes with it. Even in such basics as textiles Taiwan and South Korea have advantages in almost everything except labour costs.

The country has little manufacturing base, having lived for years off the sale of fruit, sugar and coconuts.

Mrs Monsod argues that a manufacturing base must be built from scratch, and that it is impossible to do so while so much of the country's money is being eaten up by outstanding debt.



Communist guerrillas in the Philippines joyfully raising their guns in the Bataan town of Samal, 33 miles west of the capital, to celebrate the 60-day ceasefire agreed with the government armed forces of President Corazon Aquino earlier this week.

Tasman defence talks on the rocks

From Richard Long
Wellington

Attempts by the New Zealand Government to expand defence relationships with Australia appeared to be on the rocks yesterday after a day of discussions between Mr David Lange, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, and Mr Bill Hayden, the Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Mr Hayden, who arrived in New Zealand saying that the defence relationship had gone about as far as it could and that Australia could not replace the United States' role, made clear that there were no proposals to expand links.

He said that newspaper reports had led him to expect this, and that such an expansion would imply increased defence spending, but there had been no concrete proposal from New Zealand.

The comments led to some confusion about New Zealand's defence plans in view of earlier comments from Mr Lange, Mr Frank O'Flynn, Minister of Defence, and other ministers that a strengthened defence relationship with Australia was sought to replace, in part, the loss of the American connection.

America withdrew its security commitment after the Lange Government last year banned the entry of nuclear warships.

Opposition stakes claim in Trinidad

From Jeremy Taylor, Port of Spain

Trinidad and Tobago is preparing for general elections on Monday which are likely to be the closest and most bitterly fought in 30 years.

The ruling People's National Movement (PNM), which swept to power in 1956 under Dr Eric Williams and has been there ever since, is struggling to beat off a challenge from the first unified and broadly-based opposition party it has ever faced - the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), led by a former lieutenant of Dr Williams, Mr A.N. Robinson.

An opinion poll published last weekend gave the NAR a lead of 55 per cent to 23 per cent in voting intentions; and Mr Robinson a lead of 45 per cent to 18 over the Prime Minister, Mr George Chambers, in popularity ratings.

However, the PNM has a 26-10 majority in Parliament, and even the 29 per cent swing reported by the poll may not erode that lead. The NAR has complained forcefully of irregularities in the voters' list, including the addition of

92,000 names - more than 10 per cent of the electorate - to the supplemental list.

Mr Chambers, who succeeded Dr Williams in 1981, is presenting the PNM as the natural party of government, the party of stability, continuity and good financial management.

The PNM manifesto relies heavily on its 30-year track record. The NAR pictures the ruling party as weary and secretive after three decades in power - bankrupt of ideas, riddled with corruption, and guilty of mismanaging the wealth of the country's 1974-83 oil boom. It promises renewed energy and action as well as such carrots as tax concessions and an amnesty for illegal Caribbean immigrants.

The election comes as the oil-based economy is in serious decline, due partly to declining production and a stagnant refining sector, but also to the fall of oil prices, which slashed national revenue and wiped out the local currency gains of devaluation a year ago.

Unemployment, officially at 17 per cent, has become the most serious issue as a series of business closures and layoffs continues.

Foreign exchange reserves have been steadily depleted; the trade surplus is declining; and the Government has been experiencing cash flow problems.

Alternative sources of revenue, such as tourism, export manufacturing and petrochemicals, are still far from generating new income at the levels required. The annual budget, normally presented this month, has been postponed.



Mr Chambers: behind in the popularity polls.

Solidarity faces hi-tech accusation by police

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Polish equivalent of MI5 cleared the vaulting horse and parallel bars from a police gymnasium and loaded it with confiscated Western bugs, high-frequency transmitters and code books, as part of a concerted campaign to show that the Solidarity underground is now little more than a spy ring.

The move coincided with a government appeal to all those still active in underground opposition to give themselves up before the end of the year, when the amnesty expires.

Colonel Jerzy Karpacz, a lawyer and senior member of the Polish counter-espionage department, said Western secret services were involved in the financing of shipments of expensive high-tech equipment to the underground.

On one side of the gymnasium, where off-duty secret policemen would normally have done their press-ups, was a pile of contraband confiscated from two Scandinavian trucks which were recently intercepted at the border.

The equipment included West German offset presses, 4,000 plates - which, according to Polish counter-spies could have been used to produce 40 million pages of subversive words - 20 photocopiers, several copying machines, several hundred kilos of printing ink disguised as paint, piles of Polish emigre documents, Polish emigre transmitters for high-grade transmitters, pro-Solidarity programmes on television, and devices for listening to police and military frequencies.

walls there were weapons - a simple metal pipe gun, gas for paralysing assailants - and Tandy computers, said by the officials to have been snatched during raids on former underground leaders, such as Mr Zbigniew Bujak. Espionage equipment included bugging devices, code books and photocopies of a classified book listing Polish trucks and planes.

The aim was to show that underground activity and spying are part of the same spectrum. It was supposed to demonstrate that Solidarity probably could not continue if it were not for Western support.

Colonel Karpacz, echoing allegations in the regional Swedish press, said the main Swedish smuggler, caught on November 29, had aroused the suspicion of the Swedish police before leaving on the ferry to Poland.

But the customs authorities had checked with higher authorities - the implication was that it was a wing of the Swedish secret services - and the load had been waved through.

The problem with this kind of selective openness towards the Western press by the communist security services is that there is no real link between what is displayed and the conclusions drawn by the authorities. The equipment regarded as proof positive of espionage activity by Solidarity could for the most part be bought openly in Swedish or British shops, including personal computers by school-children.

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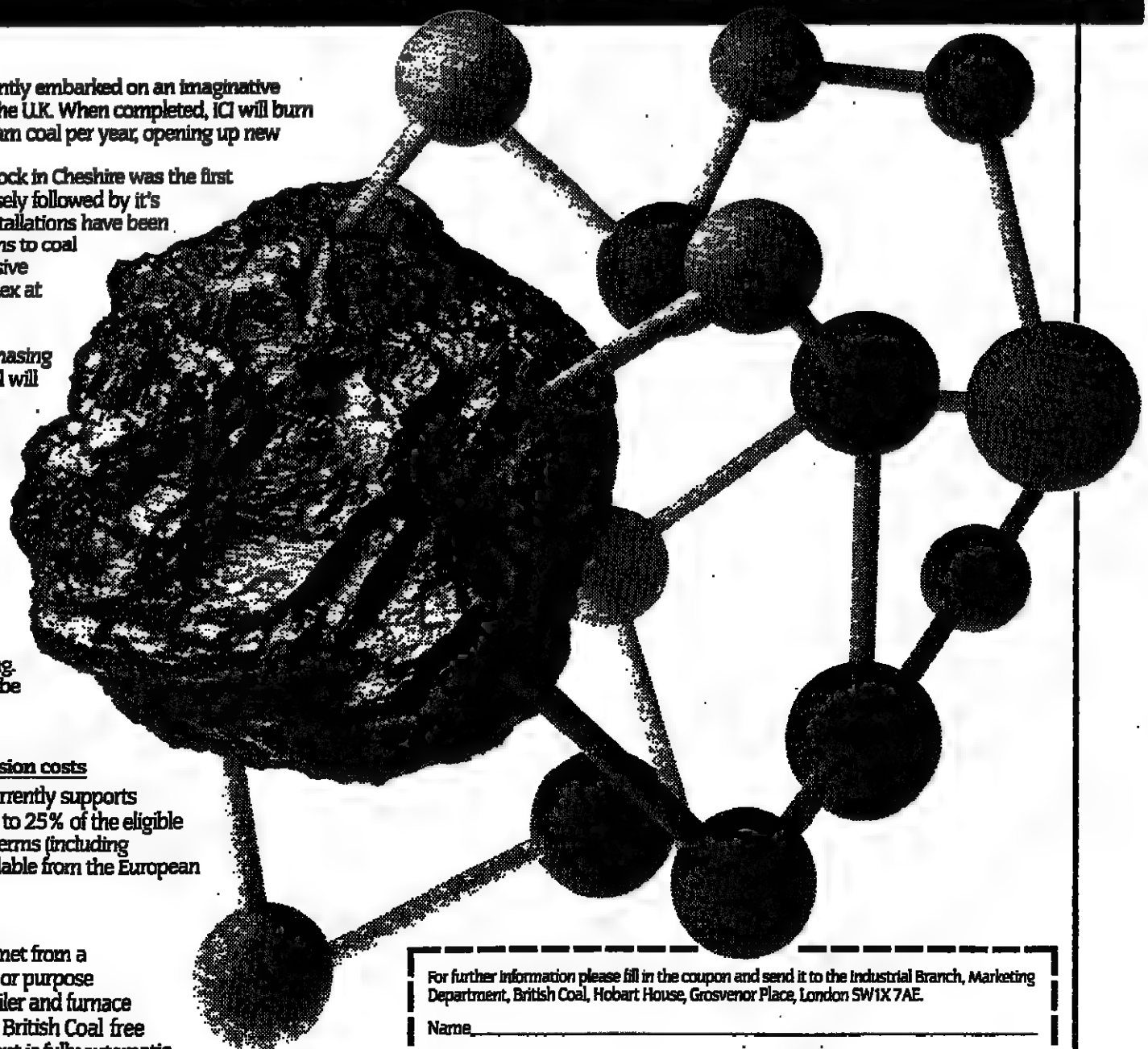
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THE ARTS 1

Roundheads roll

TELEVISION

Continuing its policy of providing a forum for marginal, if not to say dissident, views, *Open Space* (BBC2) played host to a history student from Stirling who set out to question our uncritical acceptance of the House of Windsor. Brave man.

A Voyage Round the Monarchy turned out to be a day trip to the more salient peaks of the anti-royalist range, from the glacial Piers Brandon to the majestic and still potentially volcanic Willie Hamilton MP, a man for whom the existence of royalty seems a personal affront. "Reactionary and right-wing, brainwashing, irrational..." We had, of course, heard it all before.

On a more perceptive tack, Phillip Knightley sensibly suggested that Fleet Street and the Palace seem to observe an unwritten code of conduct, whereby the former may print as much speculative trash as it pleases so long as it does not question the subject's *raison d'être*. An out-and-out republican newspaper would indeed be a wonder to behold, as well as a commercial disaster.

Republicans come in various guises, from earnest Christian democrats to weekend Roundheads. One would like to have asked these last whether they realized that life under the Protectorate was high-minded, paranoid and not much fun. But it really is no good saying that the monarchy is absurd and anachronistic, when that is at least partly the point of it.

Martin Cropper

One waited in vain for an interviewee to declare what seems to be self-evident: that with the Church of England all but moribund, the Royal Family have become not so much a living soap opera as a secular cult, individually embodying the virtues and foibles of a pagan pantheon and collectively serving as a focus for quasi-religious sentiment. The Defender of the Faith is symbolically more important than the faith she defends.

In this context, levelers' means about the class system are a red herring. They may have had more validity in the grand 40-minute film about Whitehall's recruitment procedure, *The Final Board* (also BBC2), which showed a Charterhouse girl scraping into the Diplomatic Service and a Comprehensive boy scraping out of the Home Civil Service.

Both are Oxbridge graduates, both rowed for their colleges. In interview, she was charming, personable, well-spoken and utterly flummoxed by some fairly straightforward questions; he was balding, demotic, slightly chippy and capable of sustaining an argument.

The assessors were more worried about his espousal of the "issues" picked up in his time on the GLC grants committee than of his time spent working for the London Rubber Company. He would probably have been well advised not to say, on leaving, "Cheers".

David Robinson joins America in falling for the charm of an outback innocent at large in New York

CINEMA

Crocodile Dundee (15)
Leicester Square Theatre

Harem (15)
Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue

Howard... A New Breed of Hero (pg)
Empire Leicester Square

Link (15)
Cannons, Haymarket, Oxford Street

Crocodile Dundee opened in the United States 10 weeks ago, took \$8 million in its first three days on release, and then climbed to top place in the box-office charts, a position it has retained for the past month. This kind of popular success is unprecedented for an Australian — or, indeed, for any non-American film — and serves to demonstrate how enthusiastically the public will still respond to comedy of the most simple, good-natured, old-fashioned sort — and to a star of human scale.

The star is Paul Hogan, a man with a lean, quizzical, beat-up face, who started out as a rigger on the Sydney Bridge and went on, barely a decade ago, to become Australia's most popular comedian. He made his mark with American audiences in television commercials for the Australian Tourist Commission and in this country with the *Fosters* series. His stock-in-trade is the mythical Oz character of a will resourcefulness, naivety, grit, hard-drinking sociability and impatience with pretension.

For his feature film debut (he co-authored the script with Ken Shadie and the producer John Cornell) Hogan takes an idea which has served movie comedians since before the time of Will Rogers, his most direct screen antecedent: the impact of the untamed backwoods (or outback) boy on the big city.

The exploits of *Crocodile Dundee*, a buccaneering crocodile poacher, attract New York lady reporter. After an eventful excursion into the bush together, the lady sweeps him off to New York. One wilderness is much like another to Dundee: New York on the other hand is shaken up by his friendly habit of saying "G'dye" to every passer-by, or deflating the pomp of grand hotels by hanging out his washing and treating waiters and doormen as if they were people. He copes with pimps, prostitutes, muggers, coke-sniffers, the pretentious rich, the resentful poor and all the other perils of New York life. Dundee's character does not



The swagman and the sophisticate: Paul Hogan and Linda Kozlowski in *Crocodile Dundee*

develop in the film: like the people around him he is essentially a comic type and the joke depends on his reaction to the situations and people he encounters. This is, of course, in the manner of television series comedy (the background of Hogan and his director, Peter Faiman); but it also conforms to a classic style of film comedy. It is easy to imagine, on the analogy of the great old-time comedies, *Crocodile Dundee* as a *Wrestling with the Devil* or *Crocodile Dundee* in the Navy.

Crocodile Dundee's particular appeal is the determined democracy which makes him

be a cabby, a drunk, and a dowerer and his constant undercutting of the myths that he himself represents. He watches with bemused interest as the New Yorker (spunkily played by an attractive new actress, Linda Kozlowski) follows his recommended bush diet of vegetation garnished with bugs, but then sagely opens a can of beans for his own tucker. He slyly checks with a wrist-watch before telling the time from the sun. "They think they way", he explains mystically, as a young Aboriginal (David Gulpilil) makes bravely off

into the night: a moment later there is a crash and fearful cursing from the bush. There are other resemblances to old-style movie comedy. The structure is quite shaggy, rambling from incident to incident and clumsily shifting tack midway with the move from Australia to New York, but always held together by the suspense of whether and when *Crocodile* will get the girl. The film also has the rare merit of building up its comic-romantic finale with speed, attack and a quick exit.

Head-on cultural collision is also the theme of *Harem*, an elegant, beguiling but inconsequential feature conceived and directed by a first-time French director, Arthur Joffe. It gets swiftly to business as Nastassia Kinski, convincing as a restless young New York professional woman, is dragged and kidnapped on her way to a wedding.

She wakes to find she has been added to the well-stocked desert harem of a suave oil sheik (Ben Kingsley). The harem turns out to be an unwashed and unused legacy from his forebears — part of the dead-weight of tradition that explains the schizophrenia of this man torn between two worlds. The bored harem inmates pass their time between watching soft-core videos, and licensed nights out with the local American oilmen.

The sheik and the New Yorker find common ground in a more liberated sort of affection, after which the film has not really anywhere much to go, but wanders off variously into the fey and melodramatic. Designed by the great Alexander Trauner (adapting a weird and wonderful abandoned Moroccan plot for the principal cast, photo-

graphed by Pasquale De Santis, and with some careful editing in the harem pool, the film always provides visual compensations.

Howard... A New Breed of Hero is also about culture shock: the story of a duck from outer space (if you please) who saves the world by felling invasion by the Dark Overlords of the Universe. Based on a comic book character (acknowledged in the original US title *Howard the Duck*), this represents the lunatic extreme of the special effects film.

There are a few passable jokes in the first half where Howard — accidentally misdirected from his own planet which is a duck-scale simulacrum of Earth — delivers his caustic commentary on human civilization. But Howard (evidently a small person wearing a plastic head and feathers) is not very appealing: the people around him are strictly two-dimensional; and the duck's coy sex scenes with the leading lady (Lea Thompson) are very uneasy.

The producer-director-writer team of Willard Huyck and Gloria Katz previously scripted *American Graffiti* and *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*. There must have been a terrible moment, many millions of dollars into the production of *Howard*, when everyone realised it was not going to work as either comedy or thriller, as kid's stuff or sophisticated farce.

Perhaps a spare of animal science fiction is pending. *Link* is a horror story in which the threatening peril is a homicidal chimpanzee whose intelligence has been developed by a crazed London University anthropologist (Terence Stamp) — the first of his creature's victims.

The director Richard Franklin (who made *Psycho II*) is evidently a Hitchcock devotee: he sets the action in a *Psycho*-style mansion, and the chimps are trained by Ray Berwick, who worked on *The Birds*. The performance of Link himself may however be due rather to the "special character design consultant" Lyle Conway, who was responsible for the Wonderla creatures in *Dreamchild*.

The difference is that Hitchcock always worked with well-formed scripts, which Everett De Roche's screenplay for *Link* is not. The establishing section is long and tiresome; the denouement, with a tediously indestructible monster, seems interminable, and there is not much, apart from the apes' performances, to admire in between.

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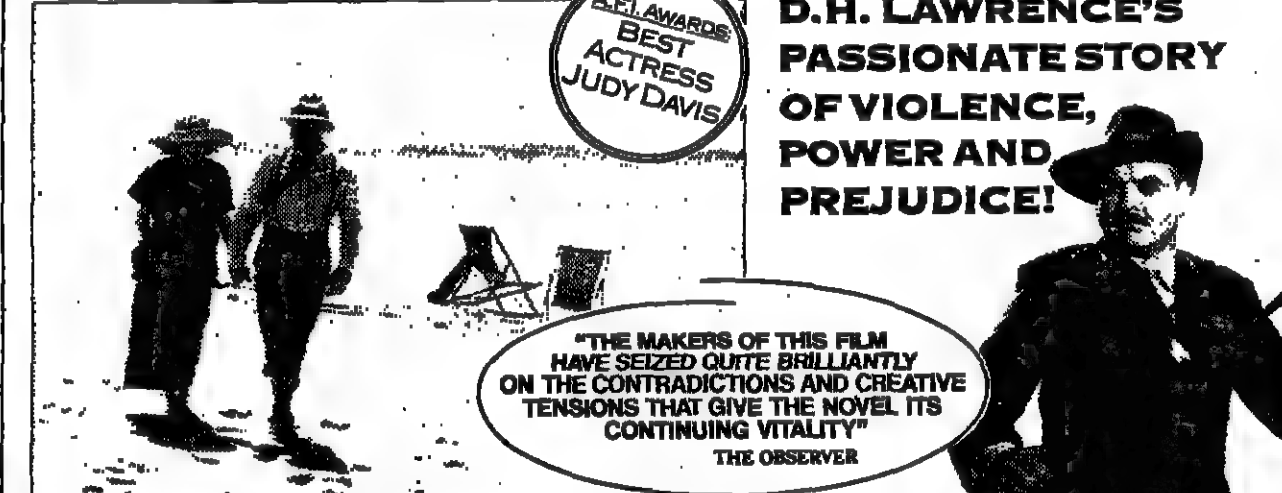
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THE ARTS 2

THEATRE

The Hobbit
The Fortune

Since this production contains the three essentials for a children's show - clear story, spectacular scenes and likeable heroes - the shortcomings of a tetchy old grown-up notices will not do much to diminish their enjoyment.

First the story. Well, it is Bilbo Baggins, the pint-sized Hobbit, shamed into joining 13 dwarves with jaw-crunching names in their fight to regain their ancestral territory. The journey is part treasure-hunt, part dragon-quest, undertaken by a reluctant Siegfried with hairy feet who discovers the thrilling terror of outwitting giant spiders and crashing the skulls of evil goblins.

He is helped by a benign wizard - and the laffy Dudley Long in his pointed hat alongside four-foot high Dixon make a quaintly attractive double act.

The children I consulted did not mind the boring bits, the wordy or incomprehensible explanations. They had no sense of being cheated after the heroes are led away to dungeons and nothing follows but the narrator's comment, "don't worry - they escaped". Tedious scenes and narrative cop-outs may even, I suppose, function as opportunities for a young audience to recover from the excitement elsewhere.

The first of these is a fight with luminous goblins, kitted out like spiky Siamese dancers, that culminates in the flight of a sword across the darkened stage. The decision to overlay Gollum's voice upon itself spoiled that encounter but momentum picked up again with David Lumsden's excellent Beorn, rough and heavily moving like the bear he changes into.

High spot of the evening is the dragon Smaug, scaly and huge, on his nest of treasure. Impressively handled by a puppeteer below his neck, and speaking with the sarcastic George Sanders politeness expected of such beasts, it then comes forward (four other puppeteers controlling its glittering wings) to stretch its neck across the orchestra pit and screech in rage before expiring like a collapsed pterodactyl.

Jeremy Kingston

DANCE

The Nutcracker
Royal, Plymouth

The Nutcracker could be one of the easiest of the classic ballets to produce, but almost everyone who tackles it nowadays decides to complicate matters. Peter Schaufuss, in his version, sponsored by Digital and premiered by the London Festival Ballet is no exception.

He has obviously been reading Professor Wiley's writings about Tchaikovsky's ballet music, so the first change he makes is to identify all the characters with members of Tchaikovsky's family, the composer himself becoming Drosselmeyer, the others being drawn mainly from his sister's household.

As an exercise in ingenuity, requiring pages of explanation in the cast list and programme notes, it is rather impressive. In practice, it makes surprisingly little difference to the plot, and there are so many minor personages huddled around the stage that you hardly notice, and certainly do not recognize, them.

The other big change is more obtrusive. Schaufuss must needs drag in the episodes from Hoffmann's story which were left out of the ballet's original libretto. So we get the barely relevant tale of Princess Piripat, the mice and the hard nut, not once but twice; first as a dumb show performed by children with captions (because otherwise we should have no idea what it meant), and then in tableaux vivants during an added scene showing little Tanya's delirious illness.

This would not be possible without taking considerable liberties with the music. An extract from the beginning of Act II gets tacked on to Act I, immediately after the overture, to introduce Tchaikovsky and his valet, who becomes the romantic lead.

Two piano pieces from the Children's Album are interpolated in the party to show Drosselmeyer's sensitive relationship with niece Tanya (which was never in doubt anyway). For the illness, we get music from the early opera *Yvonne*, and a funeral march



Youth at the pro: Trilled Sevillano and Mats Skoog, the young lovers in *The Nutcracker*

from *Hamlet*. To this last, mice defeated in battle stage a procession so like Napoleon's retreat from Moscow that the 1812 Overture might almost be more apt.

All these changes interrupt the coherent and universally popular score which is the ballet's main attraction: what kind of compliment to Tchaikovsky is that?

David Walker's designs for the Christmas Party are acceptably grand, but the transformation to the Land of Snow is a sad let down, like a rejected first draft for *Les*

Patineurs, and the second act presumably takes place in the Land of Kitsch.

Schaufuss, in his first attempt at original choreography, shows some ability, as you would expect, at arranging solos for men. His best invention is the Russian dance, done as a male trio, tremendously energetic, although this will be better if he drops the childish joke of making them pretend to drink from vodka bottles while dancing. (Similarly, I hope he has second thoughts about showing Drosselmeyer smoking all the

time: hardly the thing for a family show.)

But the rest of the choreography suggests that Schaufuss would do better to stick, in future, to the multiple talents he has already demonstrated, instead of claiming one that, very apparently, is not his.

One of his gifts is that of developing a really strong company. At this first performance, even the small parts were largely cast from principals and soloists, and there were no weak links anywhere. Detailed comment on the performances, with multiple casting, can wait the Festival Hall season, but I must mention Trinidad Sevillano and Mats Skoog, ideal young lovers, and welcome Christopher Bruce's return to the stage, even in so nebulous a role as Tchaikovsky/Drosselmeyer.

John Percival

English Concert/
Pinnock
Barbican

This event was, if nothing else, a triumph of inverse marketing. Corelli's *Christmas Concerto*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, the Bach cantata containing *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*, all performed by some of Britain's most distinguished baroque musicians: how did they manage to keep the audience away? News of the concert obviously crept out to some punters, though. Was there a leak? Was MIS involved?

The fact is that some works are so "popular" that the discerning musical public (and one presumes that the English Concert aims to attract the discerning public) actually shuns them. Vivaldi's *Gloria*, which must be performed on average about once

Prissy,
precise

CONCERTS

every hour in December by school and amateur choirs, is such a work.

Moreover, I would rather have heard it sung with amateur gusto and pride than in the way it was delivered here - precise, prissy and deadpan.

Trevor Pinnock's direction ensured a neat scheme of dynamics was immaculately executed. Only the music's heart and soul were missing.

The English Concert and its choir sounded considerably more roused by Bach the "Visitation" cantata, *Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben* - and rightly so.

It contained some of Bach's most felicitous instrumental writing, notably for oboes (of both the *d'amore* and *da caccia* ilk), violin, cello and - blazing festively over the bigger ensembles - trumpet.

Not all of these solos were as faultlessly delivered as the players would have wished. But at least the general feeling was of spirit and boldness.

There was much pleasant solo singing, too. Carolyn Watkinson, who had seemed to be straying under pitch in the Vivaldi, recovered her usual poise in the alto aria *Schme dich*.

Lorna Anderson shaped the phrases of *Berete dir, Jesu* very naturally, though her timbre seemed to thin out rather obviously at the top.

Aldair Elliott and Stephen Varcoe seized their brief opportunities with style and vigour.

Richard Morrison

Another shimmering first

LPO/Downes
Festival Hall

The Royal Philharmonic Society, which revels in its reputation for world premieres, notched up another first on Wednesday night. Delius wrote his single-movement orchestral *American Rhapsody* while he was in Paris, as part of the gestation process of his later *Appalachia*, with its choral apotheosis.

A lost eight-bars worth of manuscript made the earlier work unavailable for performance until Philip Jones, of York University, did some reconstruction work, and presented the London Philharmonic and Edward Downes with the pleasing Franco-Atlantic medley we heard.

Twelve minutes is just about long enough for this carousel of tunes from the Big Country, exquisitely orche-

strated, varied, and bound together in a river-mist of added sixths, shimmering *remolandi* and melismatic writing. Berlioz-style brass (cornets, trumpets, tenor trombones) and Dixieland rhythms combine to flex the work's muscle: Downes drew outstanding playing from all sections of the orchestra.

Talking of jazz, it was Nigel Kennedy, I suspect, who, through Elgar, provided the audience for Delius and, later, Vaughan Williams.

The award-winning *Violin Concerto* was put on show again; the "Cathedral" Stradivarius glowed its way through the work's emotional maelstroms; and the impassioned scene of fresh encounter, which Kennedy never ceases to bring to the work, was matched by orchestral playing which breathed deep from the diaphragm.

It was Downes and Vaughan Williams, though,

who provided the evening's substance. It was one of those occasions in which eye and ear gave the same message. The tension in Downes's shoulders, hunched over the miniature score, emblemized the smouldering concentration of his reading of the *Ninth Symphony*.

Dedicated to the Royal Philharmonic Society, this last symphony was composed just three years after Shostakovich's tenth: this performance urged us to an awareness of the composers' strange and subtle kinship.

Downes emphasized the austerity of outline in the outer movements. He drew energy from the striding octaves and augmentations and diminutions of the first, and the tensely lyrical *cantilena* of the last, and made of the *Andante* and *Scherzo* a march and *dance macabre* of fierce primitivism.

Hilary Finch

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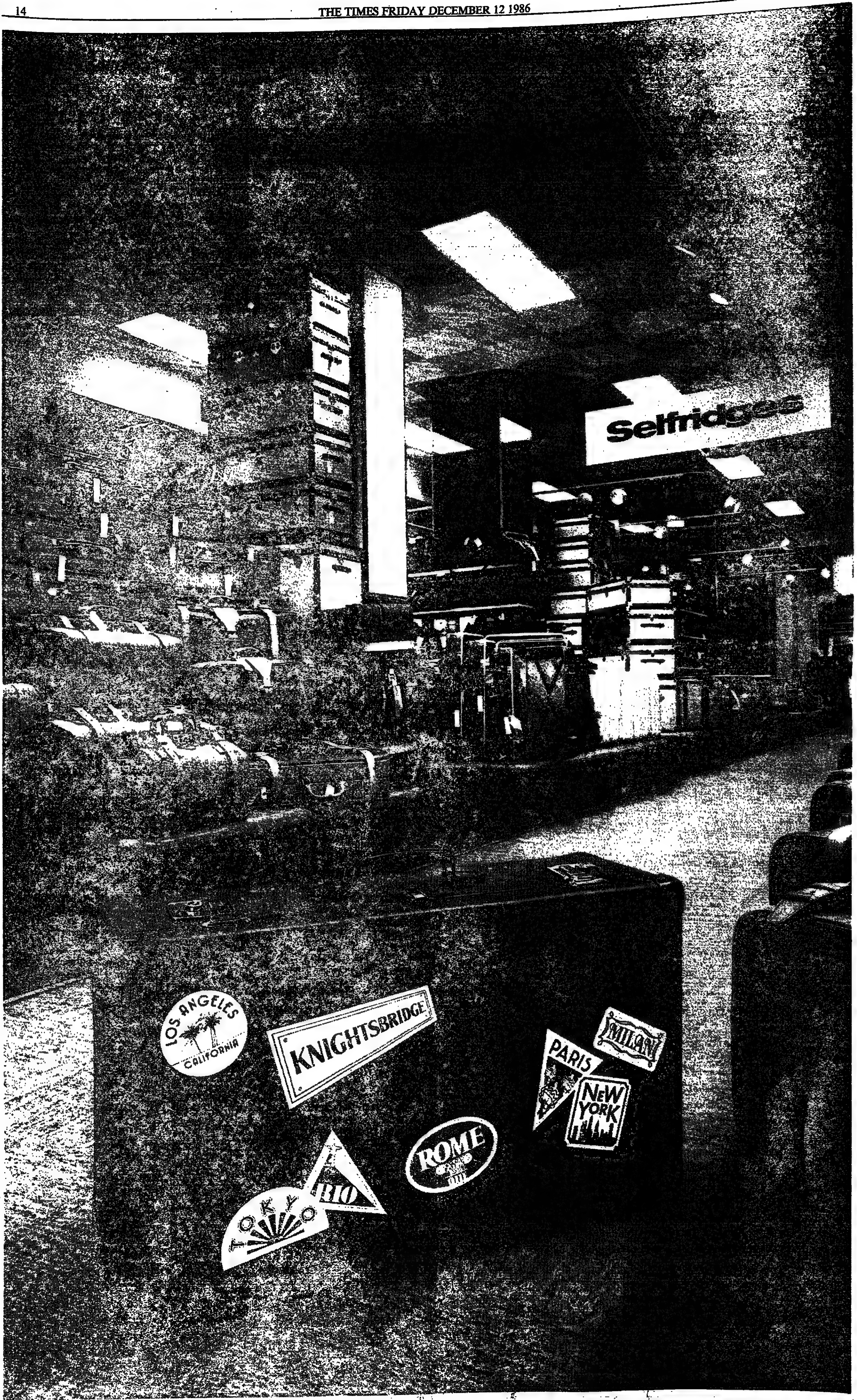
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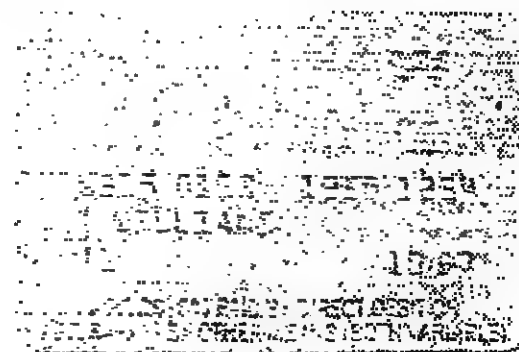
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SPECTRUM

Fishing town that hooked a fortune

Tom Kitch

The deckhands of Peterhead have money to spare for fast cars and foreign holidays. Howard Foster investigates

A bleak November Sunday afternoon in the Scottish fishing town of Peterhead. Inside the granite fishermen's houses the older people relax after lunch. In a layby on the edge of town their sons are preparing to take part in a weekly ritual that will soon shatter the silence of the Sabbath.

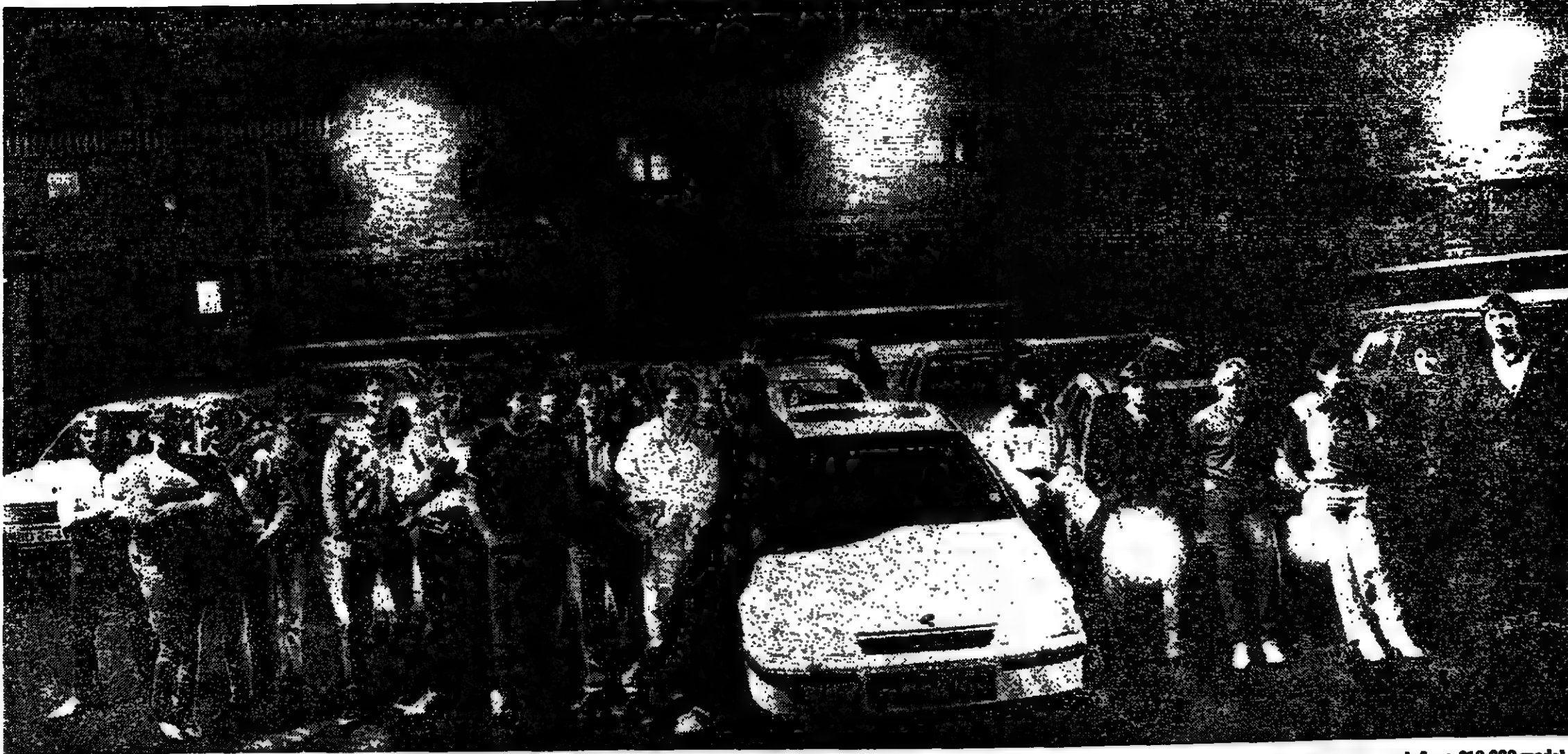
There, obscuring a series of No Parking signs are 40 new or almost new sports saloons, about £500,000 worth of young man's dream with expensive stereo systems pumping out pop to the surrounding countryside. At a given signal, the first car pulls out onto the road and the others follow nose to tail as the Peterhead young bloods begin "The Circuit" that takes them round the streets of their home town and up to the next port, Fraserburgh, to while away the Sunday "cruising" in true mid-American fashion.

These men, in their late teens, are a working-class phenomenon. They are mainly deckhands working the fishing fleet out of Peterhead and they enjoy a spending power unrivalled by their peers just about anywhere in Britain. Conservative estimates put their earnings at £500 a week when the fishing is poor. Usually they pocket more than £1,000 once the money earned from the week's catch is divided between the crew every Friday on Peterhead's fishing quay.

In the past three and a half weeks I have made £8,000," said one 18-year-old deckhand, his hair still bleached from a Mediterranean holiday with his friends. He drives a new Audi sports car and those who know the state of fishing in Peterhead do not doubt that he is telling the truth.

While Aberdeen, 32 miles down the exposed and windy Eastern Scottish coast from Peterhead, feels the chill of the oil recession, these young men are helping to fend off the effects of rising unemployment for their town. It is rare for Scotland, where little is heard nowadays other than tales of new redundancies and economic decline.

Alistair Buchanan, 22, is a car salesman at the local Ford dealer in Peterhead. He went to school with a lot of the fishermen who are now his customers. "They will come in, choose a sports car that sells for about £9,000 or



Fastest fishermen in the west: surrounded by sports cars, the young bloods of Peterhead prepare for "The Circuit" round their home town and to the next port. They have been known to pay cash for a £10,000 model

£10,000 and pay for it in full either with cash or a cheque. Some take a particular model because they like the colour," says Alistair, whose garage, although only in business three years, is already building a new site three times its present size close by.

"Sometimes they smash their new cars up and rather than wait for the repair some have been known to buy another straight away. They have little else to spend their money on and when they are away for days on end, and at home so little, their cash soon mounts up."

Not that Peterhead flinches when the fleet hits town on Friday night. Drinking and driving is comparatively rare and some of the youngsters who join "The Circuit" fit in between as many as three visits to church on Sunday. Half-a-dozen strict religious brethren groups still maintain a hold on their young. Men and women still tend to marry young among the fishing community and after playing the field the fishermen usually find themselves a "quint" — fisherman — and settles down to have children.

Vauxhall and Opel are "flavour of the month" with the young fishermen. Manta and Astra GTs constantly glide through Peterhead. The older fishermen and the trawler skippers seem to prefer an Audi or a Mercedes. Occasionally a new Jaguar arrives on the streets although one

skipper is known to keep his model almost permanently cosseted inside his garage.

Ronnie Gordon, a local furniture trader, recounts tales of orders for hand-made silk sheets from Harrods, £3,000 sitting-room suites and costly furnishings replaced annually for the sake of it. "Purchases are made on the basis of how much something costs," Gordon says. "One woman rejected a £150 duvet because it was not expensive enough."

The prosperity of the fishing community in Peterhead is based on its harbour. Until the 1970s, Aberdeen was synonymous with North Sea fishing. Then, as the Granite City geared itself up to meet the oil boom and with fishermen becoming increasingly disenchanted with its unwieldy and restrictive Docks Labour Scheme, the move to Peterhead began.

Peterhead offered a new harbour basin, a non-unionized quay where the trawler crews could quickly unload their catch for sale in the market, and proximity to the haddock, cod and herring fishing grounds. Fish buyers began to move to Peterhead to take the catches from the boats, and more boats started to unload where the buyers were.

It is now the biggest fishing port in Europe, and last week landed £63 million-worth of fish in

the past 12 months — more than rivals Aberdeen and Ullapool put together.

A few weeks ago the long queues of boats waiting to unload at the quayside filled more than 6,000 eight-stone boxes with fish for the first time ever. Confidence in the future of fishing is helping to ease unemployment in Peterhead, currently around 14 per cent.

Len Stainton, the local fish merchant, has never employed more workers in his fish processing plant. He has 70 on his books, earning around £157 for a 40-hour week filleting fish. Increasingly, he says, unemployed fish workers from Hull, Grimsby and Fleetwood are coming to Peterhead.

"Work is becoming available all the time. We now supply Spain, France, Germany and Belgium as well as Britain. There is little the Japanese could teach us about management involvement. If they need someone to help out fish, I get stuck in. There are no unions in the fishing trade," he says.

Nobody begrudges the high wages paid to the fishermen: "When you have waves breaking over the boat, it's bobbing like a cork, it's cold and you have to fish 24 hours at one go, you deserve the money you earn. It's a dangerous job and these are real men," says Walter Milne, master of the Faithful II.

Next March, work begins on an ambitious £18 million harbour expansion programme. Captain Alec Auld, the harbourmaster, says that there are 18 new boats on order for the Peterhead fleet, at a cost of about £1 million each. "We will be looking for government and EEC grants for our new harbour basin but it has to be said that the banks seem keen to lend us money. They, and I, feel confident about the future," says Captain Auld.

But the danger signs are there, say some connected with the fishing industry. Captain John D. Buchan, although now 76, still retains shares in fishing boats and is chairman of Britain's largest ice factory at Peterhead.

He, like Stainton and others, is worried about the scarcity of fish in the future. He blames illegal nets used by the Norwegians and the Danes for the shortage of haddock and cod: "Cod has doubled in price in the past year and the fishermen are making more money off fewer fish," says Captain Buchan.

"Unless we have some conservation soon, I'm very pessimistic about the future. The only good thing is that Peterhead will be the best equipped port in Europe to withstand recession. That is one thing to be thankful for."



Envy of the deckhands: at 20, George Forman has already written off two £22,000 Porsches

'Peterhead is now the only place to sell or buy fish'

Among the young men making a large amount of money from the fishing boom in George Forman, at 20 he already runs three separate businesses and from them he is on the fishmarket buying fish for firms all over Britain and Europe. He combines this with a fish transporting business and has recently started a processing company. He employs 16 people and is about to take on another three.

George Forman enjoys a car-owning reputation in Peterhead that is the envy of the young deckhands. He has already written off two £22,000 Porsches and with an insurance premium veering alarmingly towards £2,000 a year he has had to settle for a top of the range BMW. This Christmas he will be taking a three-week break in Hawaii. "I can honestly say that nothing will spoil the scene

here," says Forman. "We have the best facilities in Europe and we are expanding all the time. Peterhead is now the only place to come if you want to buy or sell fish. Fish has finally been recognized as a healthy product and sales are improving."

"We have high prices at the moment but happily there is no sign yet that they will reach a level where people will refuse to pay."

SATURDAY

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Merrily on high

From Canterbury to York, from Alexandra Palace to Trafalgar Square, the singers will deftly rhyme their evening songs this Christmas. Tomorrow *The Times* gives a guide to the best carol concerts — plus some shopping ideas, both for those who favour Christmas past and for those who like their presents hi-tech

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For the man who lays undisputed claim to the title of Britain's champion pub crawler, Alisdair Aird scarcely looks the part. In the last six years he has supped in more than 2,000 hostilities up and down the land. Yet his lean, athletic frame shows no trace of the true enthusiast's usual beer belly. And at each port of call he arrives, and leaves, as sober as a judge. Scarcely surprising, because a judge of licensed houses is exactly what he is.

Next Monday, the Consumers Association's 1987 *Good Pub Guide* (£3.95) will go on sale. Its 1,200 main entries will have two things in common. Each pub will have been personally visited by the guide's indefatigable editor. And when next visited, each landlord will fail to recognize the man who, like all true undercover investigators, wears his anonymity like a chain of office.

For a quarter of every year

He always arrives, and leaves, as sober as a judge

Aird drives himself the length and breadth of Britain on his mission of discovery, and the pint pot in front of him when he met at The George, a historic pub in Southwark, south London, was a rare indulgence.

"Usually I go in, order a half pint of beer, take the top off it and have a surreptitious look around," he says. "When a pub is very busy, particularly in the summer, it's easy to dispose of the rest of the glass. At quiet times, and especially in the north, it's much harder and I have a magnificent list of excuses." Describing his tastes as "catholic", Aird likes a drop of almost anything providing it is well kept. "I am particularly fond of malt whisky," he says.

Aird first had the idea of producing a guide to good pubs while he was working for the Consumer Association's

Alisdair Aird has a drink at 2,000 pubs a year — and all in a good cause

'I hate pubs that are just too local'

Holiday Whisk magazine, but only in 1979, when he had left to become a freelance researcher, did he begin to put his ambition into effect.

Touring the country at random, he took three years to compile enough material for his first guide, published four years ago. Even then selection was, he admits, sometimes rather arbitrary. "If a pub car park was crowded I used to pop inside, and if it wasn't I would drive straight past," he recalls.

Now, however, his judgement is assisted by a huge array of amateur sleuths who correspond with him regularly. "As I can't hope to get round to every pub in the guide every year, I can be fairly certain that one of my informants will tip me off if, say, there is a change of management or a pronounced drop in standard."

His pet hates? "I don't like fuzzy, intrusive piped music. I don't like lighting designed to reach only down to table-top level — I see no reason why a pub floor should not be at least as clean as the pavement outside. I don't like pubs which leave dirty glasses on the table and which have excessive noise behind the bar



Shopping for science: Alisdair Aird

from cooling equipment and fans.

"I don't like pubs where you are expected to have something to eat and which treat you like second class citizens if you don't and, particularly for my book, I don't like pubs which are really locals to the discomfort of exclusion of strangers — Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire tend to be particularly hostile in that respect."

And the itinerant British

Informants tip him off if standards drop

pub lover's happiest hunting ground? "Definitely Yorkshire," he says, without a hint of diplomatic hesitation. So will Aird put down his critic's pen one day and practise the kind of mine host excellence he applauds in others? "Certainly not," he declares. "For one thing the working hours are ridiculous, and for another, there are an awful lot of perfectly horrible customers whom I couldn't stand for a minute."

William Greaves

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A song of squalor

A gypsy violinist, as the tourist brochures claim, is a delightful part of dining out in Hungary. But few diners, lulled by the sound of the cymbalom, realize that they are listening to a representative of Europe's poorest ethnic minority.

The dark-skinned virtuoso at the far end of the Budapest restaurant represents only a small privileged percentage of Hungary's 400,000 gypsies, most of whom live in appalling squalor.

In some narrow side streets off Budapest's Rakocsi Square, the shop windows are filled with hand-made string instruments. These are the tools of existence of the wealthier gypsies and on a calm Monday evening, almost every last reverberates to the sound of five-year-olds torturingly practising their scales.

The musicians are traditionally the aristocrats of the gypsy community. A few closely related families produce generation after generation of cymbalom players, violinists and bass players. All of the bands who play in Budapest's luxury restaurants are in the hands of these families, who live in cramped houses with crumbling facades around Rakocsi Square.

The square is an eccentric red light district where discreet prostitution occurs after dark. Propping up the bars are dark Romany beauties, seldom seen by the businessmen from the West who are encouraged to court the seductive Magyar girls around the expensive hotels along the Danube.

Although the Rakocsi Square dwellings have not been restored or modernized for decades, they are considered luxurious by the gypsies from the country. In the towns and villages of eastern Hungary, 87,000 families with five children habitually share one room. Sanitation is primitive,

For the poorest ethnic minority in Europe, music is the only escape from daily misery

lacking even the most elementary plumbing.

It is the shocking housing conditions of the poor majority which most concerns those Hungarians who believe that the state should treat the gypsies more fairly. Social workers estimate that 350,000 live in these conditions and Magyars have nicknamed the eastern region around Debrecen, where most gypsies live, "Hungary's Sicily".

The Hungarians regard gypsies with loathing and distrust. Although there are

much smaller ethnic minorities in Hungary which have official recognition from Budapest, gypsies enjoy no such status. In schools, gypsy children are often lumped together with mentally handicapped children. Predictably, few are able to better themselves.

Caught between the indifference of their better-off brothers and the distrust of the authorities, they are trapped in an existence which can only lead to bitter resentment. While so little of the country's wealth is channelled into improving their education and living conditions, the crime rate among gypsies will continue to rise and Hungary will have both the poorest and the wealthiest inhabitants in eastern Europe.

Richard Bassett

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- 15 Cotton thread (5)
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- 20 Courteous (8)
- 21 Unoccupied (4)
- 22 Convincing (6)
- 23 Assuredly (6)

DOWN

- 1 Wren (7)
- 2 Tree beetle (5)
- 3 Depletion (5)
- 4 Petty quarrel (4)
- 5 Interval (7)
- 6 Due (5)
- 10 Escape (5)
- 11 Loves excessively (5)
- 13 Wild horse (7)
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FRIDAY PAGE

A generation born to die?

The heartbreak of Aids is bad enough for adults, but a new generation is coming into the world under its shadow, says Thomson Prentice

The odds have always been stacked against Jamie McConville. His entrance into the world last February was overshadowed by danger to himself, to his mother, and to the medical staff who delivered him. An hour before his birth in a Scottish hospital isolation room, maternity ward nurses began slipping on protective gloves, masks and aprons. "They didn't tell me exactly why those precautions were necessary," his mother says. "But I knew. I was heartbroken for my baby even before he was born."

Jamie is a child of the Aids generation. He was infected in the womb by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that his mother was carrying, and there is a substantial risk that he may soon contract the disease.

Now, at 10 months, he is a healthy, happy infant, showing no symptoms. But knowledge of Aids is still in its infancy. For the rest of his life, Jamie will have to be regularly monitored by specialists.

So too will at least 30 other British babies and their mothers who are similarly infected. Two infants have already developed the disease. Almost all the cases so far have involved mothers who were heroin addicts and who, like Jamie's mother, became carriers as a result of sharing contaminated needles with other drug abusers. Fifteen women have contracted Aids in Britain, and seven have died.

As Aids infection spreads, growing numbers of women who do not abuse drugs are at risk from sexual transmission of HIV. For them as much as for the addicts, the risks associated with pregnancy and motherhood are truly dreadful. "No mother on earth wants to lose her baby, but losing Jamie to



Lorraine McConville and Jamie, happiness under a cloud: "I was heartbroken even before he was born"

shows what we are up against. It underlines the need for women, as well as men, to take every precaution."

Dr Jacqueline Mok, a consultant paediatrician in Edinburgh, is closely involved in the care of 25 babies, including Jamie, who are carriers of the virus. "If we believe the evidence from international research, the outlook is grim," she says. "American researchers calculate that 50 per cent of such infants will die within a year of birth, and that 80 per cent are dead by the age of three."

About 300 babies in America have no far contracted Aids. Dr Mok emphasizes, however, that there are

too many unknown factors involved in the development of Aids in babies to assess the risks accurately. "There are many questions that need to be answered. We are following up all the children because we have no idea what the exact rate of transmission of the infection is."

A scientific study of Aids-infected infants in Europe is being planned, with Dr Mok a leading participant in a group of experts. Britain will co-ordinate the study, which will involve babies from West Germany, the Netherlands, Italy and France. The French Society of Perinatal Medicine has already warned that Aids could be the most

common infectious disease among new-born children next year.

Like Jamie, the babies may appear to be perfectly healthy. Clinical illness is, however, usually apparent in the first six months. Failure to thrive, recurrent fevers, respiratory disease and persistent infections are the most ominous signs. "Every time he gets a little cold I start to fear the worst," Mrs McConville says at her home in Dunfermline, Fife, where she cares for Jamie and his two older, unaffected, brothers.

Tests on Jamie have shown a decline in the HIV antibodies that he acquired from his mother. The critical question is whether he will develop antibodies of his own. If so, it will mean he is more at risk. Monitoring the mothers is equally important. For them — and any other woman who becomes a carrier of the Aids virus — the usually pleasurable prospects of sex, pregnancy and childbirth are life-long hazards. Sex is dangerous because of the risk of transmitting the infection through vaginal fluids to the male.

If infected women are warned not to have intercourse unless the man uses a condom. Pregnancy is dangerous because it lowers the maternal immunological system, causing increased susceptibility to some infections, and may trigger the onset of an Aids-related condition.

One of the 25 Edinburgh women who gave birth to infected babies did so despite medical advice that she should have an abortion. Two others subsequently became pregnant again. Both were strongly advised to have abortions, and did so. Childbirth is dangerous because it poses additional risks to mother and child of HIV infection, and means that maternity staff must observe safeguards.

Lorraine McConville somehow keeps the nightmares at bay, busy-ing herself with the daily routine of caring for Jamie and her two other sons. "I know that I can never have another child, even if I wanted to," she says. "That's a small price to pay for my stupidity in getting involved in drugs."

"What I can never come to terms with is the horrible start to life that I gave my babies. The guilt never leaves me. All I can do is hope against the odds that Jamie will stay healthy."

problems. They are worried, for instance, about his next school. "Parents will be involved who haven't been before. But we have gone through the battle for his education, and that has laid the cornerstone for the next struggle," Norman says. "Then there is the problem of girls." Doreen says, "I can envisage hate parents turning up on my doorstep when Peter gets to the stage of trying to kiss girls. And what will happen when he wants to marry and have children? All we can do is give him the information and support and ensure that he is honest."

Always in their minds is the possibility that Peter might develop the full-blown Aids syndrome. "It makes me sick when people hang on about divine retribution, homosexuals and promiscuity," Doreen explains. "The only time she was scared was when Peter developed what she thought were the first signs of the virus — swollen glands. It turned out to be mumps."

They have yet to face the greatest

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Whistle and puff

A cardboard whistle being evaluated in the Paediatric Department at the University of Sheffield may prove as important an advance in medicine as pieces of hi-tech machinery costing hundreds of thousands of pounds. One of the factors which has been found responsible for death from asthma is the difficulty of measuring the loss of lung function during an attack; experience shows that patients and their general practitioners find it difficult to estimate just how severe the wheezing is.

Despite the production of portable peak flow meters, a simple device for measuring lung function, a clinical assessment is usually the only test to which the patient is subjected. Delay in seeking specialist advice, following failure to recognise the seriousness of an attack of asthma, is a frequent cause of catastrophe.

Parents who have struggled

with a peak flow meter and found it difficult to persuade their child to blow into it report that blowing down a whistle can be quite fun instead, and that a patient soon learns to master it.

The particular whistle, manufactured by Alternate Resources Ltd, is a cylinder which has a number of holes along it with a mouth piece at one end and a whistle at the other. The amount of puff needed to blow the whistle is proportional to the number of holes open; the more holes open, the harder the child will have to blow to make a noise. The device has been graduated by comparing its readings with those obtained when using a Wright peak flow meter. It has the additional advantage that the whistle will sound if the child sucks rather than blows.

A report in the *British Medical Journal* about the work in Sheffield suggests that the peak flow whistle is cheap and effective and that its low cost, less than a seventh of that of a conventional peak flow meter, should greatly extend the number of parents who monitor their children's asthma attacks.

Pressure on meat eaters

Vegetarians have always insisted that if the rest of the community would follow their diet they would be healthier in general and their blood pressure in particular would be reduced. Casual observation of the red-faced, jolly butcher would seem to confirm their view, but until recently there has been no large-scale, carefully monitored trial. Now the *British Medical Journal* reports the results of a randomized cross-over trial carried out in Western Australia where 58 people between the ages of 30 and 64, who were mildly hypertensive, were switched to an egg and vegetarian diet. Their systolic blood pressure fell by an average of 5mm. Although this improvement seems very marginal, statisticians estimate that such a fall would reduce the coronary heart rate by seven per cent.

The general public, however, would be unlikely to feel that the loss of meat from their diet made this worthwhile; indeed, most of the Australians who gave up their steaks during the clinical trial could not wait to return to an omnivorous diet.

Risky vision

Visitors to the annual Hog Fair at Bessington, Suffolk, this year were able to take time off from bowling for the pig to visit the St John's Ambulance Brigade tent, where arrangements had been made in test fairpools for diabetes. Of the 237 people who took the opportunity, 10 were found to need further tests.

Their afternoon may have been spoilt, but the early diagnosis which resulted may later save their sight. Eight per cent of diabetics who have had the disease for 20 years have eye complications, and two out of every 100 diabetics go blind. Yet blindness could be greatly reduced if patients attended ophthalmologists (eye specialists) regularly; the British Diabetic Association estimates that seven out of ten of the diabetics who lose their sight could have had it saved if treatment had been carried out in time. They recommend that diabetics' eyes should be checked by an ophthalmologist annually.

A recent report in the *British Journal of Ophthalmology*

supports their view: in one survey half the insulin-dependent diabetics investigated had not regularly visited an ophthalmologist; when they did, 28 per cent already had disease of the retina of the eye, and 20 per cent needed urgent treatment.

Bowled out

Cricket fans watching Ian Botham's "non-bowl" last week were later relieved that he had merely torn his intercostal muscles. A pain very similar to this is often due to nerve root irritation, the result of a prolapsed intervertebral disc. It is a common injury of bowlers and seemed likely when Botham told an interviewer that climbing up and down stairs was proving difficult, a symptom all too familiar to those who have suffered with their back.

Even if this had been Ian Botham's trouble, the prognosis would not be very different: 80-90 per cent of patients with acute backache are free of symptoms within two weeks.

Dr Thomas Stuttford

How one family is coping

When they heard that their son, Peter, was an Aids virus carrier, his parents felt annoyed. "We didn't think it was our turn for another problem. But now we just want to let people know the positive things we feel about it," says Norman, his father, a 36-year-old computer systems manager.

Eighteen months ago Peter, a haemophilic, developed antibodies to the virus after receiving contaminated blood-clotting agent. He was then nine, and it was the first case of its kind in Britain. "But we are level-headed, and haemophilics and their families are used to dealing with problems," says Norman.

To the family's disappointment, the local haemophilia centre did not know what to do. "They didn't seem surprised that it had happened, but said that there was nothing to worry about," says Peter's mother, Doreen. Aids is not a notifiable disease, but because of the risks of blood spillage the parents decided to inform Peter's primary school. "We

wanted them to take precautions in case Peter injured himself in the playground."

The result was that many of the parents, fearful for their children, boycotted the school — and a quarter of the pupils were kept away. "I thought they were going to come and snub our house with a red cross," says Doreen. The couple were particularly worried that the disturbance would escalate and that Peter would be taken away from school. "Being haemophilic, he can't ever do manual labour. He desperately needs his education," Norman explains.

However, after two public meetings and a talk at the school by an Aids expert, the outcry died down. Classes were back to normal after three weeks. Indeed, Doreen and Norman were impressed with the support they received. "The only time I got really depressed was when

our dentist refused to continue treating any of us," Doreen says. "But Peter's friends went out of their way to play with him and invite him round to tea." In addition, they felt the school eased a lot of the pressure during the trouble, installing a special assistant to allay parents' fears and keep a watch on Peter.

Norman's complaint is that, despite an impression to the contrary, there is no counselling and back-up system available to families of carriers. "It just doesn't exist. We haven't been offered anything unless we have gone out of our way to ask for it." In a way, it was fortunate that the problem happened to us," Doreen adds. "Peter was young, so it was not the emotional shock it would have been for somebody older. And because of his haemophilia, he has always had to face up to the problem of being different. It could have

happened to a less confident family." Both parents have been tested for Aids and been found antibody negative. It is reassuring to think that you can live in such close contact with someone without being contaminated. As far as Peter is concerned, he is bored with all the fuss.

Their son's predicament has had little effect on their day-to-day lives. They still kiss and cuddle him, and simply observe normal hygiene precautions. "We keep an eye on any health problems — but you would do that with any child. We are mindful of blood spillage and take extra care when injecting him, to avoid jabbing ourselves," Doreen explains. The only time she was scared was when Peter developed what she thought were the first signs of the virus — swollen glands. It turned out to be mumps.

They have yet to face the greatest

Howe to alter an image

Woolworth is going back to what it does best, aided by a Lady with fond memories from childhood



Lady Howe: at home in Woolworth's

As a small child in London and Bath, Elspeth Howe spent her pocket money on Woolworth's "amazingly cheap" Mars bars and recalls the now-legendary store as a shining light in the high street. Of youngsters' Aladdin's Cave, she still shops at Woolworth's; only now the once-magical emporium has entered the world of high technology, complete with wire baskets, central tills and assistants who are not always entirely aware of what they stock or where it is — though that final observation is not Lady Howe's but my own, following a fruitless search around the Wimbledon branch for sticky coloured marking dots.

"You know, the kind they sell at Woolworth's," was how my removal man described them. Not any more. Or if they do they were well hidden behind the infuriating "if-it's-not-on-the-shelf-we-haven't-got-it" syndrome that has heralded the high street revolution.

In the wake of the new wave mass marketing — self-service stores that come in the form of warehouses rather than shops, with fairground-type lighting and piped music to lull shoppers into a false sense of prosperity — Woolworth is doffing its traditional cloth of cap to the demands of commercial progress. In the words of one of its executives, the chain of 811 British stores is "concentrating on doing things we are good at and stopping being everything to everyone."

As part of its dynamic new six-point strategy (kids, confectionery, entertainment, kitchen home and garden, kitchen goods and bags, bangles and beads) the Woolworth group, which turns over £1.8 billion annually, has employed Lady Howe as a £12,500 a year non-executive director to bring her "particular knowledge of community and public affairs" to its boardroom.

The management also feels that since 70 per cent of its

shopper and consumer representative, she has already reorganised a Comet showroom and a B & Q do-it-yourself superstore, both now owned by Woolworth. She was impressed by the way the goods were displayed and the helpful staff.

"I like the modern methods of shopping," she says. "In the past, perhaps assistants were a bit over-enthusiastic in their efforts to persuade you to buy. You can go on living in the past if it's profitable but you owe it to your employees and shareholders to make sure that you are in the business of providing what people want to buy." Even so, she admits that she misses the era of the delivery van.

She has yet to decide which areas she will tackle, although she expects that she will be keeping an eye on "things such as the role of women in the organization and the role of the company in the community."

On criticism that sales staff do not know what they are selling, she says: "That I regard as bad management. I've been pretty impressed by the staff training that now goes on. Apart from anything else, if you don't feel part of the store, you're going to do a much less good job."

She believes in family shopping, although she has little opportunity to shop with her own family. Her daughter, Caroline, 31, married with a small child, teaches singing and her 27-year-old twins, Amanda and Alexander, are, respectively, a lawyer and a CND press officer.

"Shops that tend to cater exclusively for men or women are missing half the market," says Lady Howe. "And I'm a very keen supporter of Sunday opening because I believe that increasingly families look on a shopping trip as an enjoyable occasion as well as something they need to do."

Sally Brompton

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TALKBACK

From Christine Jacca de Boinod, Albert Bridge Road, London SW11.

I read Vivien Tomlinson's "All The Fury Of The Fyre" (Wednesday Page, November 26th) with keen interest, but her view of the Christmas Fayre is quite different from my own. I work for a large company and at the moment we're trying to raise money to buy a guide dog for the blind. One of the fund-raising events is a bring-a-baby sale, and everyone who has been involved with it has been staggered by the response from contributors.

What is normally just a reasonably friendly body of people, who can be relied upon to contribute to good causes, has turned into a frenzied army of jam makers, dried flower arrangers, bird-feeder whizzlers, tombola spinners, record stall runners, Christmas card designers, baby clothes manufacturers and pickled onion bottlers.

Hitherto hidden talents are revealing themselves at an alarming rate — the office mouse has metamorphosed into a pastry cook of patisserie standards, the lads are rightly proud of their Christmas gift tags and the knitted badges, crafted and donated by another member of the team should sell like hot cakes — talking of which, the cake stall will be graining under the strain of pledged chocolate chip cookies, almond butter crunch, Mrs Richmond's apple pies and Forest Gate gateaux (sic).

What is it that makes people suddenly throw themselves wholeheartedly into such events? I think it may be a combination of things — the "good cause" itself, a return to a Blue Peter mentality, Valerie Singleton's washing up liquid bottles, a chance to show off in areas other than career. It's a feeling of team spirit.

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NEVERSELE FUR-LINED RAINCOATS	£1,995	£499	£199
MINK DYED MUSQUASH COATS	£1,999	£499	£199
BLUE FOX JACKETS	£1,350	£499	£199
MINK THREE QTRS.	£2,450	£595	£265
STRANDED RACCOON THREE QTRS.	£3,995	£799	£399
MINK COATS	£3,250	£999	£499
TWO-TONE MINK JACKETS	£5,950	£1,495	£595
STRANDED RACCOON COATS	£5,575	£1,495	£557
MAHOGANY MINK COATS	£6,850	£1,595	£895
STRANDED SILVER FOX COATS	£11,950	£1,795	£1,195
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THE TIMES DIARY

After you, Hugh

Hugh Montefiore, the fiery Bishop of Birmingham who retires in March, is tipped to be succeeded by an equally controversial member of the cloth: inner city lobbyist James Thompson. It seems someone up there has taken pity on Thompson, who as Bishop of Stepney has laboured under the unsympathetic regime of Graham Leonard, the traditionalist Bishop of London with whom he has recently disagreed over women priests. The Birmingham vacancy committee, when it meets to make recommendations to the Crown Appointments Committee, will doubtless be aware that Thompson was chaplain of Cusdeseon Theological College at the time Robert Runcie was principal. Dog-collared cynics observe it would not be the first time an old friend of the Archbishop has won preference. Indeed, it is said, the new bishops of Oxford, Lichfield and Exeter are all members of Canterbury's charmed circle.

Still on the church: yesterday's Radio Four Daily Service included a prayer for "the victims of insidious secrecy and for those whose trust has been betrayed by their partner in trade and their partner in work." Who could they possibly mean?

Horning in

Lynda Chalker's recent talks with President Museveni in Uganda were abruptly interrupted when a somewhat confused hippopotamus attempted to gatecrash. Foreign Office officials said yesterday the minister was discussing IMF suggestions for the Ugandan economy when there was a loud crash and the sound of splintering glass. Mrs Chalker was shaken, not least because in the dark — the incident happened at 10 pm — the possibility of a terrorist attack could not be ruled out. Minutes passed before the intruder was identified.

Late score

Edward Heath may not be on the podium but nevertheless has a role in the performance of Sir William Walton's *Battle of Britain* suite at Monday's memorial service for Richard Dimbleby at Westminster Abbey. Lady Walton tells me from her home in Italy that Sir William was distraught when he discovered that United Artists had decided to use only a few seconds of his score for the 1969 film, *The Battle of Britain*. Hearing of Walton's concern that UA had not returned the manuscript, Heath, then prime minister, personally intervened to retrieve it. It was presented to Walton on his 70th birthday as a surprise present.

BARRY FANTONI



Distanced

The effects of Count Nikolai Tolstoy's book *The Minister and the Massacre* — in which he accuses Harold Macmillan of sending 40,000 Cossacks and White Russians back to Stalin — are still being felt at Winchester College. Headmaster James Sabben-Clare has just suppressed a review of the book in the school magazine by history master Mark Stephenson. Could the problem have been the unsympathetic light cast on Lord Asquith, then a brighter, now a darker, Winchester College? Certainly not. Sabben-Clare told me yesterday: *The Wykehamist* was a forum for school matters and for boys to voice their opinions. "What someone did 40 years ago, entirely unconnected with the school, is irrelevant."

I am told several Labour MPs are boasting that they have bought British Gas shares: all profits to the party, of course.

Take your pick

The Solomonian justice of His Honour Judge Peter Greenwood presiding at Chelmsford Crown Court: after complaints from the jury, he banned reporters from entering or leaving except between witnesses. Aghast that it would prevent them meeting deadlines, they appealed to him to change his mind. Judge Greenwood obliged. But only on condition that they bought books of raffle tickets for one of his favourite charities, the Cherry Tree Sports Football Club.

Taking a stance

One anti-apartheid sympathizer is not boycotting *Björk's Sunbird* at the Lyric, Hammersmith (PHS yesterday). Sean Taylor shares the respectable liberal credentials of his step-brother, Dr Frederick van Zyl Slabbert, former leader of South Africa's Progressive Federal Party. Taylor is not only in the play — he's the lead actor.

PHS

Nimrod: best on all counts

by Cecil Parkinson

None of us in Parliament can be happy with the long-running saga of the choice of Britain's airborne early warning system. Many thought the matter was settled once and for all in 1977 when the Ministry of Defence announced that it had opted for Nimrod, a British Aerospace aircraft equipped with GEC technology.

It is difficult to discover exactly what has happened since then, and the version one hears depends on the person one is talking to. What is clear is that the system is later than it should have been and more expensive than the original estimate. Two facts should not obscure two even more important facts: Nimrod has still been developed in five years less than it took the Americans to develop Awacs and that the Americans have spent more than twice as much on developing their system as we have on ours. Far from being an example of Britain's inability to produce a highly technical product within an acceptable time, and at an acceptable price, it is evidence that British technologists can, and have, outperformed the technologists of the United States — one of

the most advanced countries in the world.

The second misapprehension about Nimrod is that it does not and will not work. Fortunately George Younger, the Defence Secretary, has openly acknowledged that Nimrod does work. The technical problems which remain to be solved are relatively minor, and the solutions to most of them already known.

Nimrod will be at least as good as Awacs and some people believe it will be better. Whatever the rights and wrongs about the past, the RAF now has a choice of two systems, both of which work. The choice that the Cabinet will have to make should therefore be based on cost and delivery. Here Nimrod has an indisputable advantage. The 11 aircraft can be delivered to the RAF, meeting the RAF's full specifications, at a cost of £500 million more than has been spent to date. It is hard to get at the exact cost of the American system but most people regard a figure of £1,000 million as being the likely price. So Nimrod can become available to the RAF for

£500m less than it would cost to switch to Awacs.

The opponents of Nimrod counter this by arguing that, over the 20-year life span of the system, Awacs will be cheaper. This assertion is strongly disputed and is in fact so theoretical as to be unprovable. What is beyond dispute is that Nimrod will cost several hundred million pounds less initially and will need far fewer people to operate it. Other opponents of Nimrod argue that there is no certainty that the aircraft can be delivered within the specified time. GEC can point to the fact that since it took over full responsibility for the contract on March 3 this year it has consistently beaten the deadlines and has produced better performance than promised. It also accepts that the contract will be at a fixed price with substantial financial penalties for non-performance. It is totally confident that it can do the job within the fixed price and that it will not incur penalties.

Nimrod would have enormous export potential for Britain. Sixteen countries have already ex-

pressed strong interest. Both Lockheed and Aeritalia have expressed their confidence in the GEC system and have undertaken substantial sums of their own money in furthering co-operative ventures.

Estimated export sales could be worth £2.5 billion. This will be lost unless Nimrod goes ahead. Many jobs in Britain depend on the Nimrod project but the prime consideration must be the defence of the country. If the system did not work then, regardless of the number of jobs involved, defence considerations would come first. But the system does work. It will save substantial sums in future defence budgets and will show the world that, in a shorter time and at less cost than its rivals, Britain can produce products which involve the most advanced technology.

It would be an unnecessary blow to the morale, hard work and jobs of thousands of people to opt at this stage for the rival system. For defence and economic reasons, the choice must be Nimrod.

The author is Conservative MP for Hertsmere.

As the Brent row rumbles on, John Clare shows that a left-wing authority need not be synonymous with second-rate education

What black parents really want



Jocelyn Barrow: 'entire system permeated with racism'



Maureen McGoldrick: target of a 'loony left' campaign

educational system is simply a consequence of their class.

So in a society that many believe they have good reason to regard as racist, they look for another reason. And as they look they notice something else that is happening to their children in school. Not only do they seem to be invariably relegated to the CSE rather than the O-level stream, but once there are offered ersatz courses, with titles their parents have never previously encountered, which are designed, or so the teachers assure them, to "equip young people for a life of unemployment".

In other words, "drawing" instead of "composition". Who can wonder if some parents come to their own (paranoid) conclusions? However, that is emphatically not the analysis of the Brent report. On the contrary, it argues that black children do badly in school because the traditional curriculum, with its emphasis on acquiring knowledge and passing exams, is "culturally foreign" to them — part, indeed, of that inchoate and all-pervasive racism.

Accordingly, it recommends yet more "alternative pathways", the very courses that black parents reject. The report notes stiffly: "The developments in the curricu-

lum we have advocated have a problem in securing public recognition comparable to that accorded to external examinations."

Later on it cautiously changes tack: "We are not criticising the aims or indeed the methods of 'child-centred education' but we are saying that its outcomes are very different from its intentions. It has alienated the very social groups it was supposedly designed to give a voice to. It must be fundamentally rethought and recast in terms that make sense to the marginalized child and his/her parents and continue rather than interrupt their culture."

But what are black parents (or indeed anyone else) to make of all that? Not surprisingly, the only impression the report left was to confirm a widespread but mindless conviction that racism explained everything.

Unhappily, it is an impression the council has done nothing to dispel. The result is that the "loony left" label sticks because an obsession with racism seems to loom over everything Brent does. The perception, if that is what it is, of Miss Maureen McGoldrick, the headteacher of Sudbury Infants School, is a case in point. Even if, as has been alleged and resolutely denied, she did tell a

council official that her school did not want any more black teachers, Brent would have been exonerated for disciplining her.

The irony of all this is that another authority in London, quite as left-wing and responsible for educating more black children than any other, has not only been down this tortured road but come back with a convincing answer.

After years of complaining about racism (and sexism), the Inner London Education Authority finally started listening to black parents were saying. They said they were fed up with "initiatives" on race and they did not want to know about new-fangled subjects. They wanted their children to pass examinations in traditional subjects so that they would have the qualifications they needed to find jobs.

In short, they demanded the three Rs, and they wanted them taught properly, just as they are in the voluntary Saturday schools to which thousands of black parents have been sending their children for years.

The ILEA, to its credit, did a U-turn. Now the talk is all of quality rather than equality: the message is that the latter can only grow out of the former. Good schools, the authority says, are well ordered places where the teachers have high expectations of their pupils and everybody works hard.

Furthermore, good schools are to be measured by their pupils' success in public exams, properly weighted to take account of the nature of their intake.

So, unlike Brent, the ILEA is not in the process of appointing a small army of "race relations advisers" to seek out evidence of racist practices. Instead, it is recruiting senior teachers to be sent into schools which have been identified — on the basis of their weighted examination results — as not performing as well as they should.

The chief inspector of the ILEA, and a powerful influence on its thinking, is Dr David Hargreaves, a widely respected academic. He tells a poignant and illustrative story.

"Recently, and by coincidence," he says, "I had separate conversations with a member (of the authority), an inspector and an ILEA head, on the same theme. All four of us had one common element in our histories: we were working-class and attended grammar or direct grant schools. Our parents had limited formal education and no special ambitions for us. Our schools, however, set high expectations for us and pressured us to work hard, raising our aspirations so that we found our way to university. Would our educational histories have been the same, we wondered, had we attended an ILEA comprehensive school of today?"

Dr Hargreaves does not say what the answers were: it is enough that the question was asked.

Is it too late for Brent to learn the same painful lesson? The author is Education Correspondent of The Times.

David Watt

Can Kinnock be let off the hook?

The Labour Party's attempt to remodel its defence policy is a hopeless operation. It is rather as if Henry Ford had attempted to rescue the Edsel car by changing the design of the cigarette lighter and offering deferred terms. The same old central defect remains: either Britain, under a Labour government, will continue to depend ultimately on American nuclear weapons for its defence (in which case it is crazy to kick the Americans out even after consultations) or it will not so depend (in which case Labour is not offering a credible alternative defence of the country).

There are only two ways to escape this dilemma. The first is so disreputable that not even Mr Kinnock quite dares to spell it out explicitly, though the new paper comes close to it from time to time. That is to adopt the "free-rider" position: whatever we do, the Americans will continue to defend us, with nuclear weapons in the last resort, because it is in their own national interest to do so. The second escape route is to pretend that nuclear weapons are no longer relevant at all to the defence of Europe; conventional weapons will do all that is necessary. It is Kinnock's misfortune that a wholehearted rush to either of these exits is impossible.

The free-rider solution fails on four counts: (a) it has been made painfully clear on many occasions, the most recent being Kinnock's tour of the US, that we cannot be absolutely sure these days that emotion will not cause the Americans to act against their best interest (and, of course, ours) by withdrawing credible protection from Europe if they are sufficiently provoked; (b) the British public are unlikely to warm to the idea of sponging on the Americans; (c) if we wash our hands completely of American nuclear strategy we obviously lose all influence over it; (d) it has the tactical drawback, as Kinnock is now going to discover, that the strong pacifist/CND sentiment in his party is offended by any admission that American nuclear missiles have any role whatever in keeping the Russians at bay — they want what Kinnock offered them at this year's party conference, namely a completely non-nuclear NATO, not simply a NATO whose non-American members are consciously sheltering under a single American nuclear umbrella.

This last point accounts for the extraordinarily lame phraseology of several key passages in the new Labour document, notably the statement near the very end that "we accept that both the US and the Soviet Union will want" (not "need", you notice) "to maintain a minimum second strike capability as long as the other does". The necessity for nuclear deterrents is thus grudgingly acknowledged for the sake of the commonsensical voter but it is quarantined, as it were, from Europe by the implication that it is a matter only for the silly old superpowers and has nothing to do with us. The central NATO idea of an American nuclear "guarantee" cannot be so quietly and painlessly glossed over.

That brings us naturally to the second escape: the idea of a

nuclear-free Europe. This has more plausibility than free-riding because it chimes in with some trends in the real world. It is actually true that the strain on British defence expenditure will soon cause a real clash of priorities; it is true that some NATO countries already refuse to have American nuclear weapons on their soil; it is even true that some Americans as well as Europeans are worried about NATO's reliance on nuclear weapons to repel conventional attack and that at Reykjavik President Reagan is contently offering to give away the European political capital invested so heavily in the deployment of American cruise and Pershing missiles.

Cynical old Denis Healey knows enough to make these fragments of intellectual respectability stretch some way over his nakedness, but they do not cover the most significant parts. The issue still comes down to the question of whether the British voters will really believe that NATO can defend itself without nuclear weapons in Europe if the Russians continue to possess them, or even, indeed, if they don't. It is one thing to hope for 50 per cent negotiated cuts in intermediate-range missiles such as cruise and Soviet SS20s but quite another to endorse unilateral nuclear disarmament or to accept that large and expensive increases in conventional arms are an adequate or desirable substitute for the relatively cheap nuclear deterrents now based in Britain and elsewhere on the continent. It simply doesn't add up.

Could anything make this dog's breakfast look more appetising? There is not much left in the kitchen. One chance is that the West German Social Democrats, with whom Labour has very imprudently worked out a common defence position, do well in the elections in January, thus giving at least a scrap of authenticity to the Labour claim to be in the European mainstream on this subject. But Kinnock could end up looking even more isolated because everything suggests that the SPD is heading for a catastrophe on the same scale as Labour's own defeat in 1983, and with much the same cause: it has been taken over by the left.

Another outside hope for Labour is that events at the superpower level will let it off the hook, either because the Reagan administration becomes so discredited that irreparable damage is done to the whole concept of an American guarantee or, alternatively, because Reagan manages to salvage his authority by an arms deal so radical that it overstates the British controversy. All very improbable, at least in 1987.

That leaves only the real possibility that Mrs Thatcher and Norman Tebbit overlay their hand on the defence issue. The charge that Kinnock has been playing politics with security has served the Prime Minister pretty well in the last two weeks. A bit too much stridency on the nuclear question — a subject which people take very seriously, if events oblige them to turn their attention to it — could easily cause the accusation to rebound on her.

Paul Pickering

The fledgeling that flipped

A successful crime writer told me the other day that criminals are made in the nursery. As I had just received the grim details of the formative years of Hector, the talkative and exceedingly delinquent raven I adopt at London Zoo, I was putting the theory to the test.

Hector was for many years a star turn at the Tower of London. There he impressed everyone with his vocal skills, saying endearing things like "Give us it ere then" in an Arthur Mullard voice. Then one day he turned nasty.

"It was only mischief to begin with," said Yeoman Raven Master John Williamson. "He was never a bad lad when I was around — just high-spirited. Because he could fly everywhere he assumed everything belonged to him. He once tore the windscreen wipers off a Bentley and pecked the surface off a guard's boots."

But it was Hector's intense hatred of Americans which led to his becoming London Zoo's only political prisoner. For some reason people who say "Have a nice day" and wear plaid jackets brought out the worst in him. The end came when he attacked a blue-ringed lady from Little Rock.

Hector not only zoomed after her like a Phantom going flat out, knocking off her flowered hat and tearing it to pieces with his beak, but laughed while he did it. As the woman had been brought up on the Old Testament and the *National Enquirer* she was convinced he was a demon from hell, and she had to be treated for shock. Imprisonment at the zoo has, if anything, made him angrier.

"He is the only bird it's too dangerous to go in with," says his keeper, Fred. "He nearly had a chap's eye out. You have to get him to savage a broom and then put it into a separate enclosure at the back if you want to clean him out. You would stand much more chance with a big cat."

So what went wrong in Hector's fledglinghood that caused him to become a dangerous psychopath? A man wrote to me recently with a

dreadful story. The poor bird, it seems, was brought up in South London. My correspondent, a received the grim details of the formative years of Hector, the talkative and exceedingly delinquent raven I adopt at London Zoo, I was putting the theory to the test.

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Rodney Lord

"Privatisation and Regulation, the UK Experience (Clarendon Press, Oxford, £25 hardback, £9.95 paperback).



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JUDGING RIGHTS

The motives of those who wish to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into the law in Britain tend to fall into two categories. The first, with Lord Scarman at the helm, believe that the United Kingdom should have its own Bill of Rights and, since they assume the political impossibility of agreeing upon a custom-made Bill, that the next best option is to adopt the Convention to which Britain has adhered since 1952.

The second springs more from pique than constitutional objective. Why should a Commission and a Court, with their base in a foreign country and made up almost entirely of foreign officials and judges, continue to have the right to meddle in our affairs? Better that we should bring the Convention home, when at least cases alleging its breach would be heard by our own national judges.

The ammunition for that approach is provided by the statistics. Numerically, the United Kingdom government, whatever its political hue, leads the other twenty members of the Council of Europe both in the number of complaints laid against it in Strasbourg and in the number of occasions on which the European Court of Human Rights has judged it guilty of a breach of the Convention.

The United Kingdom's frequent appearances do not, however, denote particular disregard of its international obligations in the area of human rights. The principal reason is that in almost every other European country the Convention, or some constitutional document akin to it, is part of that national law. Aggrieved citizens do not rush so quickly to Strasbourg because they are able to air their complaints before their own courts. In Britain, even with the welcome increase in the citizen's ability to challenge administrative decisions by the judicial review procedure, Strasbourg is often the only rather than the last resort.

Opponents of incorporation, too, divide into two broad camps. There are those — including the Government — who have reservations about the imprecise nature of the convention and claim constitutional obstacles to its becoming part of our law; and there are the objectors, mainly on the political left, who fear placing the interpretation of the Convention into the conservative hands of English and Scottish judges.

For the Convention is not like legislation passed by Westminster. It is in effect a Bill of Rights setting out in ringing, sweeping and often nebulous tones the rights to which the citizen is entitled. Therein lies its difficulty for British consumption. We are not accustomed to written constitutions or Bills of Rights. They fit uneasily into our system of law and government.

TIGHTENING THE COPPER BELT

The riots which have erupted in Zambia's copper belt over the past week are but one manifestation of the economic ills besetting southern Africa. The immediate cause of the present unrest is reported to be the sharp increase in the price of maize meal, the staple food. The increase — of more than 100 per cent — applies only to the superior type of maize, leaving people with the theoretical option of buying low quality meal to make ends meet.

The latest price rises were dictated, in effect, not by the Zambian government, but by the International Monetary Fund as a condition for extending further loans. For Zambia, despite its years of relative political stability, is a paradigm of Third World indebtedness. It is a country which has a net outflow of foreign currency because of over-optimistic borrowing against a future prosperity that has been too long in coming.

The latest austerity measures precipitated rioting, looting and violence on a scale not to have been seen since Zambia became independent more than 20 years ago. The authorities have dispatched troops and declared a curfew. Such is their concern to restore law and order in an area which still provides the bulk of Zambia's depleted foreign currency earnings.

The threat of anarchy in so economically vital a region

The Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms Bill nonetheless attempts to introduce the concept to British law. It states simply that the "Fundamental Rights and Freedoms [of the Convention] shall have the force of law", and the Convention itself appears in a schedule to the Bill. Originally introduced in the Upper House by Lord Scarman and Broxborough, it was passed by their Lordships but subsequently lapsed. Now, Sir Edward Gardner, QC, the Chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs, is bringing it before the Commons.

No attempt is made to give the Bill a special status in law by laying down unique and stringent parliamentary or judicial procedures for amendment, as most countries with constitutions provide. At first blush, therefore, the Bill is just another piece of Westminster legislation which, if passed into law, would be subject to amendment or repeal by ordinary parliamentary procedure. To that extent parliamentary sovereignty is not affected.

Yet the Bill does contain the trappings of a constitution. All other laws, past and future, will have to conform to the list of rights and freedoms laid down in the Convention, or run the risk of being struck down for being in effect (though the term is not used in the Bill) unconstitutional. And what of the terms of the Convention itself in the Bill's schedule? If Parliament becomes free to change them, it might lead to the absurd result that the Westminster version of the Convention would be different from the treaty to which Britain adheres. But if Parliament cannot change the terms, is this not giving the Convention a special, higher status than ordinary law?

The position of Strasbourg's European Court of Human Rights raises a further difficulty. At present, its findings are not legally binding, though they are followed because of our treaty obligations. The court does not form part of our national legal structure in the way that Luxembourg's European Community's court does. Incorporating the Convention would, however, give Strasbourg a more formal status as the court of last resort, in effect a court of appeal from the national courts. We would have given foreign judges more power — though, as a result of providing national remedies, there would presumably be many fewer cases going to Strasbourg to enable them to exercise it.

A further constitutional question arises over the role of judges in Britain. They are trained to interpret detailed statutes passed by Westminster and to make up their minds between alternative detailed arguments put to them by barristers. It is an approach not necessarily suited to the kind of enquiry to which highlights the dilemma for President Kaunda and for Zambia's friends abroad, including Britain. At what point do the economic reforms and austerity measures required by international lending organizations so destabilize the domestic political situation that their main purpose — returning the country to solvency — is defeated?

Where a country has a record of political instability, or endemic corruption, the likelihood is, first, that not so much should have been lent in the first place and, second, that neither the recipient nor the lender would have much to lose from scaling down, or even severing the relationship. Zambia, however, does not quite fit into this gloomy pattern. Its troubles are due partly to bad luck. The continued fall in copper prices is a trend that was not predicted, and the agricultural reforms away from collectivization came too late to remedy Zambia's dependence on imports.

There is, however, the possibility that the latest disturbances are only one manifestation of a deeper discontent within the Bemba tribe (dominant in the copper belt) over President Kaunda's presidency. There have been reports for some time of concern among the country's intelligence services about developing unrest. As long as the army remains loyal, it is hard to see how any serious

Continental judges are accustomed, namely, the determination of whether or not particular laws, rules or conduct fall within the very broad wording of an article in a Bill of Rights or a constitution. It may also bring judges dangerously close to having to make decisions about what are essentially policy matters more properly in the hands of the executive.

It is true, of course, that the top echelons of the judiciary are not entirely novices at making decisions on constitutional issues. The law lords, when they sit on the Privy Council in their judicial capacity, are constantly interpreting the constitutions of Commonwealth countries with no apparent difficulty; and the expansion in the last few years of administrative law has obliged judges to come to terms with making decisions which have political policy consequences.

Yet a Bill of Rights would greatly expand this. The need to interpret the vague abstract rights embodied in it would compel judges to venture more frequently into politically dangerous territory without giving them the concrete guidance of traditional jurisprudence. Already, complaints are occasionally heard from the left about the supposed political partiality of the judiciary. These can at present be easily dismissed. The fact that over the last few years the law has not suited the trade unions and the left has to do with parliament and the electorate, not with the judiciary.

But such complaints would have greater apparent reasonableness, on both left and right, if a Bill of Rights were to enable and even compel judges to deliver judgements which could not easily be distinguished from legislative or executive decisions on a wide range of matters. The Scottish judge, Lord McCloskey, argued in this week's Reith Lecture that the politics of the judiciary would then become of supreme interest. That is perhaps an exaggeration. There is at least a risk, however, that judges would be selected on the basis of their political views and judicial decisions would increasingly be matters of intense controversy.

The main question, then, is simple. Do we need the European Convention on Human Rights in our law? Will the upheaval which incorporating it will undoubtedly bring be outweighed by the benefit to the citizens of having a quasi Bill of Rights which may turn out to be a constitutional nightmare? There is, in fact, no evidence of risk to the liberties of the subject sufficient to justify subordinating the British system of judicial interpretation of concrete law to an over-riding power of the judges to interpret a series of ringing abstract declarations at their own discretion.

threat to Mr Kaunda could materialize. But the international financial community shares the president's interest in maintaining stability in the country and must therefore be alive to the dangers which might lie beneath the surface.

They also have a common interest in persevering with their relationship. The IMF and others hope to recoup some of their investment. And Zambia needs loans that will make a more positive contribution to growth than past investments have done. Violent change in Zambia would foster neither aim.

Some Western governments, notably the United States, have already begun to argue that austerity measures alone are incapable of remedying Africa's persistent insolvency. A year ago at the World Bank meeting in Seoul they put forward a more flexible approach to lending which concentrated on funding economic growth and broke away from the austerity-led recipes offered before.

This may show a way forward. In view of past experience, however, there must be a strict *quid pro quo* for any future loans. If it is not to be austerity, then it must be greater liberalisation of the recipient economy and its adjustment to market forces. For the present, the unrest in Zambia this week illustrates the risks, to all involved, of failing to change.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Labour's defence policy under fire

From Sir Patrick Donner
Sir, In a television interview Mr Neil Kinnock claimed in the United States that the Labour Party had always been prepared to defend this country. This is a falsehood of monumental proportions.

From 1929 until the outbreak of war the Labour Party, riddled with pacifism, systematically opposed the National Government's measures to rearm. They denounced as warmongers all who, in the looming Nazi menace, called for more defence. In the year that Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia the Labour Party conference voted not to reduce but to abolish the RAF altogether.

Only four months before the outbreak of war the Parliamentary Labour Party voted against conscription. And in September, 1939, their personal hatred of Neville Chamberlain was such that they forgot their duty to their country and refused to share the burden of Government until the spring of 1940.

When Germany was defeated, Winston Churchill appealed in the national interest to Atlee to remain in the coalition at least until Japan had been defeated, so that a united country could face the world's problems. Atlee refused. In war the Labour Party arrived late and left early.

This is Labour's infamous defence record, for which, to the best of my knowledge, no member of the Labour Party has ever expressed a word of contrition or regret for the damage they did.

And when in 1982 the Argentines committed unprovoked aggression and invaded the Falkland Islands, Labour MPs criticized not them but the Prime Minister who felt compelled to observe in the Commons that "she wished the leader [Mr Foot] of the Labour Party was as concerned for our defence as he is to keep Soviet superiority".

Mr Kinnock, whose policy of "defenceless defence" has been repudiated by the United States and every Nato government, is now busy putting a gloss on it so as to make it appear less dangerous and reprehensible than it is. Given his inexperience and irresponsibility, will anyone believe him? Yours etc, PATRICK DONNER, Hurstbourne Park, Whitechurch, Hampshire, December 9.

From Major-General J. D. Lunt
Sir, Does Mr Kinnock intend to increase our land forces contribution to Nato by forming more

divisions? If so, the Soviet Union can match us fourfold.

How does he propose to get the men? By greatly increasing pay? In which case, what will the TUC say? And if not, by reintroducing National Service that will mean rebelling the size of the training machine, the provision of more barracks and training areas &c, &c? It will be difficult to find room to house and train the new divisions in Germany, let alone in this country.

Or does he intend to make our increased contribution a maritime one? More warships and submarines (non-nuclear, of course). How is he going to man the ships? Except in the immediate aftermath of the Falklands war the Royal Navy has been struggling with a retention problem for many years.

Perhaps it is the RAF which is to benefit the most from the largesse so lavishly promised by Mr Kinnock? It probably should be, after having been cut to the bone by successive governments. But this will mean more land for airfields, and in view of their ever-increasing cost the addition of relatively few planes to the frontline strength. Here again, there will be a retention problem, since skilled men are offered many advantages in civilian life.

Not for one moment would I wish to disparage the good intentions and high ideals of those who want to take Britain out of the "nuclear club". But if it should ever come to war, which God forbid, and should the Russians and Americans be locked in a life struggle, we shall certainly not save ourselves by abandoning such influence as we still possess, nor by pulling the wool over our eyes, as we tried to do in the run-up to World War II. We still had to fight Hitler in the end.

I am, &c, &c, JAMES LUNT, Little Milton, Oxfordshire, December 6.

From Mr Humphrey Smith
Sir, Your second leader of December 8 makes the statement in relation to the Labour Party... its non-nuclear defence policy carries no credibility at all.

Sir, this is rubbish. It is quite specifically on account of its defence policy that, at the age of 41, I intend to vote for the Labour Party at the next general election, for the first time in my life. I do not think I am alone.

Yours faithfully, HUMPHREY SMITH, 1 Croft Road, Atherstone, Warwickshire, December 8.

Country of origin

From Mr Rupert Blum

Sir, The letter by Sir Edward du Cann and others of the Conservative Parliamentary Group for European Reform seems to confuse the obligation to show the country of origin on consumer products with the right of producers to continue doing so. The proposed repeal of the Trade Descriptions Act 1972 will in no way affect that right.

My own county of Herefordshire produces some excellent products. When firms judge that buyers will be attracted by being made aware of its origin, there is nothing in the EEC Treaty to prevent them marking the product "Made in Herefordshire, England (or Great Britain or UK)".

Yours faithfully, RUPERT BLUM, Prior House, Stoke Prior, Leominster, Herefordshire, December 5.

Sports ground

From Mr C. G. Buck

Sir, Let me add emphasis to John Goodbody's telling articles (December 2, 3) about the appalling rates burdens which amateur sports clubs are made to bear.

The rates bill for Lords cricket ground is quoted as £25,700. Ours, for a comparable area in the southern outskirts of Sheffield, is £45,000.

Yours sincerely, C. G. BUCK (President, Sheffield Amateur Sports Club), The Grange, Bradway, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, December 5.

A case of misconduct

From Mr F. E. Weale

Sir, Your third leader (November 27) is correct in questioning the mechanisms with which "disturbing aspects" of the case in which I was found guilty of professional misconduct have been brought to light.

I do not believe that the Royal College of Surgeons bears any responsibility in this matter, though we do have the opinion of its president that "it was the responsibility of the surgeon who admitted a patient to ensure that he or she was cared for, either by himself or by another surgeon who was coming on duty." Substantially the same conclusion was arrived at by the Tower Hamlets advisory panel reporting on the Wendy Savage case (see *British Medical Journal*, October 25, 1986, page 1092).

I have twice requested public enquiries to be made into the conditions of work with which I have been confronted over the past few years. To its credit, the Royal College of Surgeons reported in the autumn of 1983 on these problems. It is unfortunate that the advice was unacceptable

Security service over-mighty?

From Mr Aubrey Jones

Sir, Professor Hough (December 6) is right: the requirement of lifelong confidentiality now placed on an official of the security services should be conditional, not absolute. If, for example, such an official were to keep to himself information about an act of espionage against the government of the day, no matter whether that act had been undertaken officially or unofficially, he would in effect be elevating his service above the government.

The real issue arising from the Wright case is, which is the paramount authority, security services or government? It can now be seen, thanks to Mr Wright, that the present system, with its emphasis on absolute secrecy on the part of everyone, can conduce to the omnipotence of the security service.

Even a prime minister may feel the need to appeal against it, as did, according to report, Lord Wilson. It is difficult, however, to see to whom he or she may appeal unless it is to a small body of privy counsellors drawn from more than one political party.

Yours faithfully, AUBREY JONES, 89 North End House, Fitzjames Avenue, W14.

From Mr K. I. McCallum
Sir, In the current real life spy drama no one seems to have asked the obvious question. Why, if so many senior British intelligence officers were Russian moles, has this made so little difference? Britain has remained intact, the foundations of Nato are uncrumbled, the wheels of international diplomacy have continued to turn.

Are the dire consequences of all the double-dealing too secret to be revealed? Or could it be that Professor J. C. Masterman, who was in a position to know, got it right when he suggested that in time of peace the elaborate game of espionage and counter-espionage is largely a waste of time?

Yours sincerely, IAIN MCCALLUM, Combsbury Farm, Buckland St Mary, Chard, Somerset.

From Mr Chapman Pincher
Sir, I must protest concerning a statement about myself made by my old friend Miles Copeland in his article (December 1) about the Wright affair. Mr Copeland wrote Peter Wright is sure to have enough of a bes-setter to make whatever Chapman Pincher said him look like peanuts.

I have never paid Mr Wright anything. Mr Wright received royalties on a jointly-authored book properly paid by the publisher and nothing else.

Yours sincerely, CHAPMAN PINCHER, Church House, 16 Church Street, Kintbury, Newbury, Berkshire.

Towards forgiveness

From the Reverend Stephen Trot

Sir, Your correspondent on "forgiveness" Mr Conolly (December 8), should beware of taking *Oxford Dictionary* and elevating them into theological principles.

The dictionary hardly does justice to the word "love" when it gives "warm affection" as a definition: but a dictionary is not intended to explore the depths of such words.

Whether exercised by the General Assembly in Scotland, or by an individual priest in an episcopal church, the ministry of reconciliation and forgiveness is very much something involving human beings, because to forgive is to express the conviction that God does forgive sinners who repent, and has given power and authority to his church to do so.

We are thus restored to grace and fellowship with our brothers and sisters in the church. Mr Conolly's "third parties". Were forgiveness withheld, then none of us could remain members of God's church, let alone be ordained to minister within it.

Yours faithfully, STEPHEN TROT, 14 Southgate, Hesse, Humberstone, December 8.

From the President of the General Medical Council

Sir, It would not be proper for me to comment upon the determination of the Professional Conduct Committee of this Council in the case to which you referred in your leading article of November 27 — save to say that the committee reached its decision after full consideration of all of the evidence heard in the case, and to make it clear that the complaint in question, which was first received in the form required by the rules on August 8, 1986, was considered by the Preliminary Proceedings Committee at its next meeting on October 1. It was referred for a formal hearing by the Conduct Committee on November 19 and 20.

I have noted the letter you published (December 5) from the President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and can only add that the General Medical Council will continue to attach paramount importance to its primary responsibility of protecting the public.

Yours faithfully, JOHN WALTON, President, General Medical Council, 44 Hallam Street, W1, December 5.

ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 12 1854

The storm which preceded the terrible first winter in the Crimea caused most damage at sea, where, at least 30 Allied ships were sunk. The most serious loss was the *Prince*, loaded with 40,000 new uniforms, underwear, hats, gloves, medical supplies and ammunition. By comparison it was possible almost to make light of the storm havoc at Army headquarters, to which The Times correspondent, William Howard Russell, was attached. The censored exclamation was presumably "Egad!"

THE BRITISH EXPEDITION

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Camp Before Sebastopol, Nov. 14
The camp was visited by a hurricane today. It commenced shortly after 6 o'clock am, and was preceded by rain and squalls from SW and SSW.

For about an hour I had been in a listless state between waking and sleeping, listening to the pelting of the rain against the fluttering canvas of the tent, or dodging the streams of water which flowed underneath it, saturating our blankets and collecting on the machine tools in pools. The sound of the rain, its heavy beating on the earth, had become gradually swallowed up by the noise of the rushing of the wind over the common, and by the flapping of the tents as they rocked more violently beneath its force. Gradually the sides of the canvas, which were tucked in under big stones to secure them against do rise and flutter, permitting the wind to enter playfully and drive before it sheets of rain right into one's face; the pegs began to indicate painful indentation and want of firmness of purpose...

At every fresh blast the pole of the tent trembled and bent like a salmon rod; the canvas tugged at the ropes to pull them up, and the pegs yielded in protest. A startling crack! I looked at my companions, who seemed determined to slum out all sound and sense by piling as much clothes as they could collect over their heads. A roar of wind, and the pole bent until the fatal "crack" was heard again. "Get up, doctor! with you! E-I, the tent is coming down!" The doctor rose from beneath his tunic of clothes. Now, if there was anything in what the doctor said, and if there were more than one, it was his tent-pole. There was a decided bend in the middle of it, but he used to argue, on sound anatomical, mathematical, and physical principles, that the bend was a decided improvement, and he believed that no power of Aolus could ever shake it.

He looked at the pole blandly, as he looks at all things, put out his hand, and shook it. "Why, man," said he reverentially, "this is right — that pole would stand for ever," and then he crouched down and burrowed under his bedclothes.

Scarcely had he given the last convulsive heave of the blankets which indicates perfect comfort and satisfaction, when a harsh screaming sound, increasing in vehemence as it approached, struck us with horror. As it passed, it seemed the snapping of tent-poles and the shattering of timber and canvas... The pole broke off short in the middle, as if it were glass, and in an instant we were pressed down and half stifled by the heavy folds of the wet canvas, which beat us about the head with the greatest fury. Half breathless and blind, I struggled for the door. Such a sight as met the eye! The whole, quiet, peaceful camp was beaten to the earth, and the unhappy occupants were rushing through the mud in all directions in chase of their effects and clothes...

Dr. Hall's tent, close at hand, was levelled; and the principal medical officer of the British army might be seen in an unusual state of perturbation, seeking for his garments one by one to light. Captain Chatwood, in drawers and shirt, was tearing through the rain and through the dirt like a maniac after a cap which he fancied was his own, and which he found, after a desperate run, was his sergeant's. The air was filled with blankets, hats, great coats, little coats, and even umbrellas and tin snuffers. Macintoshes, quilts, Indian rubber tubes, bed-clothes, sheets of tent-canvas went whirling like leaves in the gale towards Sebastopol...

Now and then a cruel gale of sunshine absolutely shot out of a rift in the walls of clouds and rendered the misery of the scene more striking. Gathered up as we were under the old wall, we could not but look at sea — of our transports off Balaklava and the Kertch — of the men in the trenches and on picket. Alas! we had too much reason for our anxiety.

Nov. 15... The fall of this tree, which had seen many winters, coupled with the fact that the verandah and balconies of the houses and a row of very fine acacia trees on the beach were blown down corroborates the statement, so generally made by the inhabitants that they had never seen or heard of such a hurricane in their lifetime, although there is a tradition among some that once in 30 or 40 years such visitations occur along this coast. In its present condition Balaklava is utterly indescribable...

Breath of summer

From Mr James W. Gillett

Sir, On December 3, within minutes of seeing the first snow-drops in bloom, my wife was stung by a wasp! Yours faithfully, J. W. GILLETT, 16 Lea Road, Ampthill, Bedford, December 6.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 11: The Queen held an investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

The Queen this evening attended a Reception at Guildhall to mark the 150th Anniversary of The Newspaper Society.

Her Majesty was received by the Right Hon the Lord Mayor (Sir David Rowe-Ham) and the President of the Society (Mr J.E.C. Dicks).

Lady Susan Hussey, Mr Kenneth Scott, Mr Michael Shea and Lieutenant-Commander Timothy Laurence, RN were in attendance.

The Queen, attended by Lady Susan Hussey, Mr Kenneth Scott and Lieutenant-Commander Timothy Laurence, RN, left King's Cross Station in the Royal Train this evening for South Yorkshire.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the Fédération Equestre Internationale, accompanied by The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, attended the FEI General Assembly at the Waldorf Hotel today.

Mr Brian McGrath was in attendance. The Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, this evening attended a dinner given by the FEI at the Waldorf Hotel.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Miller, Mr Brian McGrath and Mrs Timothy Holderness-Roddam were in attendance. KENSINGTON PALACE

December 11: The Prince of Wales, President, The Princess of Wales, accompanied by The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, this afternoon visited the production stage of the film *Living Daylights* at Pinewood Studios.

Mrs George West and Lieutenant-Colonel Brian Anderson were in attendance. KENSINGTON PALACE

December 11: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon today visited Crowborough and was received on arrival at Eridge Park by Her Majesty's Vice-Lord Lieutenant for East Sussex (Major B.M.H. Stand).

Her Royal Highness opened the new swimming pool at Goldsmiths Leisure Centre and, in the afternoon, The Princess opened the hydrotherapy pool at the Horder Centre for Arthritis, of which Her Royal Highness is President.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by The Hon Mrs Wills.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 11: The Duke of Gloucester, President, the Institute of Advanced Motorists, today received Mr F.M. Pickering, Chairman, and Mrs R.B. Peters, Chief Executive and Secretary.

The Duchess of Gloucester, this afternoon visited The Royal Institute of Oil Painters' Exhibition at The Mall Galleries, SW1.

Mrs Howard Page was in attendance. THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

December 11: Princess Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy, to mark the Centenary of Olympia, were present this evening at the opening of the International Show Jumping Championships at Olympia.

The Princess of Wales, Patron of Help the Aged, will attend the premiere of *Short Circuit*, in aid of the charity, at the Leicester Square Theatre on January 15.

The Duke of Gloucester will present the 1986 award to the Girl Technician Engineer of the Year at the Royal Society of Arts on December 15.

Princess Alexandra will attend the opening of the Toshiba Gallery of Japanese Art at the Victoria and Albert Museum on December 17.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend a luncheon given by the Regimental Lieutenant-Colonel, Household Division, at the Officers' Mess, Wellington Barracks, on December 18.

The Prince of Wales, Trustee of the National Gallery, will attend a dinner at the gallery on December 18 to mark the retirement of the director, Sir Michael Levey.

Princess Anne, President of the Save the Children Fund, will attend the opening of the new special unit for deaf visually handicapped children at Whitfield School, Macdonald Road, E17, on January 27.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Henry Frost will be held at All Hallows-by-the Tower at 11.30 today.

Birthdays today
Miss Tracy Austin, 26; Mr Lionel Blair, 55; Major-General Sir Rupert Brazier-Cragh, 77; Miss Denise Coffey, 50; Mr Kenneth Cranham, 42; the Hon Mrs Gwyneth Druce-Cox, 60; Mr Emerson Fitzpatrick, 40; Mr Roy Grantham, 60; Air Commodore Dame Felicity Hill, 71; Mr Philip Ledger, 49; Canon Professor E.L. Mascall, 81; Mr John Osborne, 73; Mr Frank Sagarin, 71; Lieutenant-General Sir William Turner, 79; the Right Rev Denis Wakeling, 68.

Mr J.M. Ferial and Miss E. Ferial. The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs William Ferial, of Telford, Somerset, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Swann, of Pinner, Middlesex.

Mr G. Fret and Miss A. Gandy. The engagement is announced between George, eldest son of Mr and Mrs D.J. Fret, of New Malden, Surrey, and Angela, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Gandy, of Blue Anchor, Minehead, Somerset.

Mr D.J. Goffrey and Miss G.M. Peeling. The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs D.F. Goffrey, of Newark, Nottinghamshire, and Gillian, daughter of Mr and Mrs W.B. Peeling, of Newport, Gwent.

Mr A.S.E. Jones and Miss A.L.C. Eley. The engagement is announced between Ross, eldest son of the late Mr R.H. Jones and of Mrs J.D. Nathan, of Park Walk, London, and Annabel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Eley, of Hackthorn Hall, Lincoln.

Mr R.C.F. Res and Miss S.J. Golding. The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Major and Mrs M.F. Res, of The Old Rectory, Cowley, Gloucestershire, and Sarah Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs B.M. Golding, of Wells Farm, Claverdon, Warwickshire.

Mr R.W. Robinson and Miss M.B. Smith. The engagement is announced between Robert William, son of Mr and Mrs R.C. Robinson, of Cotgrave, Nottingham, and Marie Bernadette, daughter of Mrs M.E. Smith and of the late Mr S. Smith, of Grassendale, Liverpool.

Mr M.J. Scandlers and Miss J. Cassie. The engagement is announced between Malcolm, son of Mr and Mrs J.S. Scandlers, of Haywards Heath, West Sussex, and Jacquelyn, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J.R. Cassie, of Bedlington, Northumberland.

Mr D.L. Manley and Miss E.M. Macleod. The engagement is announced between David, youngest son of the late Mr Ivor Manley and Mrs Ivor Manley, of Bacton, Herefordshire, and Erica, only daughter of Mr Alastair Macleod, of Miami, Florida, and Mrs Lorna Macleod, of Woolley, Herefordshire.

Mr S.J.J. Raben and Miss S.J.L. Stratton. The engagement is announced between Matthew, eldest son of Baron and Baroness Michael Raben Levett, of Rathmire Park, Tullow, Co Carlow, and Sarah Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Vernon Stratton, of St Helen's Station, Isle of Wight.

Moments after Mrs Hope fell her Aid-Call was telephoning neighbours for help



Sale room £423,500 for bust of French general

By Huon Mallalieu

The morning session of a sale of medieval and later European bronzes, sculptures and works of art at Sotheby's yesterday aroused considerable enthusiasm in widely diverse fields and produced a total of £1,810,919 with 9 per cent bought in.

A fine baroque marble half-length bust of the 17th-century French general, the Duc de Luxembourg, with a massive wig, armour and the Order of the St Esprit, went to the London dealer, Adrian Ward-Jackson, at £423,500 (estimate £280,000 to £120,000).

It was attributed to the Flemish sculptor, Jan Pieter van Burscheit the elder, an stylistic grounds, although only two signed busts by him are known. The sculptor of this one was certainly at pains to ignore the notably humped back of the sitter.

An early 17th-century bronze group of Hercules slaying a dragon, which was attributed to Felice Palma and appeared based on a design by Gianbologna, was bought by Agnew at £220,000 (estimate £70,000 to £100,000).

From a much earlier period of European civilisation, there was a carved ivory pyxis, or circular box for the reservation of the host, which went to Edward Lubin, of New York

for £308,000 (estimate £200,000 to £300,000). It dated from about AD 500, seems to have originated in western Europe and was boldly carved with scenes of the healing miracles of Christ.

A fine Limoges champlevé enamel and chalice or reliquary, dating from about 1190, sold for £66,000.

In a sale of jewels at Sotheby's, a diamond ring with a pear-shaped stone weighing 9.89 carats made £85,800 (estimate £30,000 to £40,000).

At Christie's, a sale of English furniture made a total of £326,733 with 18 per cent failing to find buyers. The London dealer, Christopher Gibbs, bought the two most expensive lots, an early Georgian two-section walnut cabinet, £7,000 (estimate £3,000) and a small Regency marble pedestal, £10,000 (estimate £5,000).

On Wednesday afternoon, Christie's held a sale of antiquities which produced £300,586 with 18 per cent bought in.

In yesterday's sale room report the price of the Dali necklace sold in New York should have read \$152,000, and the sterling total for the jewel sale was £2,783,796.

Reception

Newspaper Society
The Queen was present at a reception held at Guildhall last night to mark the 150th anniversary of the Newspaper Society.

Mr J.E.C. Dicks, president, and Mrs Dicks received the guests who also included the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayores, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies. Mr Giles Shaw, Minister of State for Trade and Industry, and Mr Brian Gould, MP.

Luncheons
Diplomatic and Commonwealth Writers' Association of Britain
Mr Chris Patten, Minister for Overseas Development, was the guest of honour at a luncheon given by the Diplomatic and Commonwealth Writers' Association of Britain at the Reform Club yesterday.

Mr John O'Sullivan, President of the British Property Federation, was host at a luncheon held at 19 Sloane Street, SW1, on Thursday, December 11, for the Hon Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment.

Mr John Delmonico, Deputy Secretary at the Department of the Environment, Mr Geoffrey Carter, vice-president, and other members of the federation were present.

International Council of Christians and Jews
Sir Sigmund Sternberg, chairman of the executive committee of the International Council of Christians and Jews, was host at a luncheon held yesterday at Hill House, WC1, to mark the appointment of the Rev Richard Harries, Dean of King's College London, and Bishop-elect of Oxford, as consultant to the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York on interfaith matters.

Appointments
Mr J.A. Robson, Ambassador at Bogota, to be Ambassador to Norway in succession to Sir William Bentley, who is retiring from the Diplomatic Service.

Mrs S.E. Brown to be head of Companies Division, Department of Trade and Industry in succession to Mr A.A. Duguid.

Mr H. Fleetwood Hamilton-Dalrymple to be Lord Lieutenant for Lothian Region in succession to the Earl of Wemyss and March, who will be retiring on January 19.

Latest wills
Dr Elwyn Davies, of Aberystwyth, former president of the National Library of Wales, left estate valued at £597,880 net.

Mr James Ferguson Bonford, of Pershore, Worcestershire, left £1,704,710 net.

University news
Wales
The following have been awarded readerships at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth: Dr Roger Horgan (botany and microbiology) and Dr Richard Kemp (zoology).

Reading Grants
Medical Research Council: £102,561 to Professor J. H. Lawton for the genetic analysis of type 2 and type 3 poliovirus vaccines.

Dr J. H. Lawton, Director of the Centre for Virus Research, University of Liverpool, is to receive a grant of £200,000 to £250,000 to carry out research on the genetic analysis of type 2 and type 3 poliovirus vaccines.

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OBITUARY SIR AUGUSTUS WALKER

Intrepid air commander

Air Chief Marshal Sir Augustus Walker, GCB, CBE, DSO, DFC, AFC, died on December 11 at the age of 74.

A bomber pilot, he had an excellent record on operations during the war, and continued to fly in spite of losing an arm in 1942. Afterwards he held many important commands, and was finally Inspector-General of the RAF before going to a Nato post in Europe.

George Augustus (Gus) Walker was born at Leeds on August 24, 1912, and educated at St Bees' School and St Catharine's College, Cambridge, where he gained a Second in the Natural Sciences Tripos, and won a rugby Blue.

He joined the RAF in 1934 and was posted, two years later, to 99 Squadron, of Heyford bombers. Between then and the outbreak of war he specialised in armaments.

He also captained the RAF rugby team from 1936 to 1939, and played for Blackheath, Yorkshire, England and the Barbarians.

In the first year of the war he did a flying refresher course, and later commanded a squadron of Hampdens. In 1941 he was appointed station commander at North Luffham.

Walker was not only a superb aircraft captain, but a brilliant leader of formations. At a time when there was widespread scepticism in high places about Bomber Command's claims of success over Germany, he had a reputation for striving relentlessly to make sure that his aircraft were getting to their targets.

No death-or-glory daredevil, he nevertheless went to immense pains - and courted the consequent dangers - to identify objectives before ordering bombs away.

On one night operation when the target, a factory, was almost totally obscured, he found a gap in the cloud cover, and drove through it, intending to take a closer look at rooftop level. He found, instead, that he had flown slap into a balloon barrage, but managed to extricate himself and deliver his bomb-load accurately. This was all done in the face of heavy enemy fire.

He commanded RAF Coningsby from 1951 to 1953 when it had Washingtons (B-29s on loan from the United States), and in the final year went on a course to familiarise himself with jets.

In 1954 he took command of the RAF Flying College at Manby, and led its staff and students on numerous long-range exercises. In July of that year he navigated two Hastings aircraft in surveys over the North Pole, which paved the way for the first flight to the Pole by a British jet aircraft (the college's Canberra bomber, Arise IV, in October 1954). These flights yielded valuable information on the behaviour of gas turbine engines at extreme temperatures.

Walker was awarded the AFC in 1956.

In that year, he became AOC 1 Group, Bomber Command. Its Vulcans were entering service and the operational

wave radiation at their embassy. In 1957 Stoesel was taken ill with nausea and bleeding from the eyes, and was found to have contracted leukaemia, the disease which, in fact, eventually killed him.

The following year Stoesel was appointed ambassador to West Germany. He remained until 1981, returning to Washington as deputy secretary of state under Alexander Haig.

He stood in for a time in 1982 between Haig's resignation and the appointment of George Schultz. Stoesel himself retired later that year.

But he was not allowed to rest, and was later recalled for a number of special assignments: improving relations with Hungary, meetings with Polish communist leaders, and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Sinai. He was once again in conversation with the Chinese, on the subject of peaceful nuclear cooperation.

The silver-haired Stoesel was a tough and skilled diplomat. By way of relaxation he had a passion for paddle tennis (played with a sponge ball and paddle-shaped bat, with rules similar to ordinary tennis).

He married, in 1946, Mary Ann Ferrendou, who survives him with their three daughters.

MR JOHN BOLTON
Mr John Bolton, CB, died recently at the age of 60.

Born in Lancashire on December 30, 1925, he was educated at Blackburn College of Technology, and then served apprenticeships with BAC and Courtaulds.

In 1954 he entered the National Health Service as a group engineer, and in 1968 was appointed chief engineer to the DHSS, becoming chief works officer in 1977.

Last year he became president of the Institute of Hospital Engineering.

He was a good talker and genial companion, as well as an admirable administrator.

His wife, Nell, survives him, with their three daughters.

Two further meetings took place the following month, which smoothed the way for Kissinger's secret visit to Peking.

From 1972 to 1974 Stoesel was assistant secretary of state for European affairs, engaged in talks with the Soviets on mutual and balanced force reductions (MBFR).

Nixon, doubtless pleased by his tactful diplomacy in Warsaw, sent him in 1974 as ambassador to Moscow.

There he helped negotiate agreements on the size of nuclear tests and attended meetings between Kissinger and Brezhnev.

It was at this period that the Americans had good reason to suspect that the Russians were bearing high levels of micro-

training of these squadrons was a matter of high priority into which he threw himself with great enthusiasm. The rest of the world, too, was curious about the new delaware bomber, and Walker led a formation from 617 (the Dambusters) Squadron to the World Congress of Flight at Las Vegas, in 1959. There, they gave a dazzling flying display over the Grand Canyon.

In June 1959 he was appointed to a newly created post for a serving officer, that of Chief Information Officer at the Air Ministry. He held this for two years before being made AOC-in-C Flying Training Command.

His final RAF appointment was as Inspector-General (1964-67), but in the latter year he went to a Nato post as Deputy Force Central Europe, from which he continued active. He was a non-executive director of Philips Electronics from 1970 to 1982, but had a host of other interests.

Though his playing days were over, he continued to be deeply involved in rugby and qualified as a first-class referee. He was president of the RFU in 1965-66. He also played an excellent game of golf, left-handed, and had a single-figure handicap.

In his service career, as in his life outside, Gus Walker was a man who led from the front. Like many bombing men of his generation his was the philosophy of going in "hard and low". He never expected of a subordinate anything he would not do himself. At Coningsby he once stood in for a bomb-aimer who had gone sick, unreservedly putting himself under the aircraft's captain, although he commanded the entire station.

A man of his temperament was, naturally, no friend of the bureaucrat and he could be strewed red tape in his path. In the mess he was popular, though he neither drank nor smoked.

He leaves a widow, Brenda, a son and a daughter.

DAN DONOVAN
Dan Donovan, one of the best known British band singers in the early days of radio, died on December 6, he was 85.

He first sang professionally at tea dances in Cardiff, where he was born, before going to London in the early 1920s.

His distinctive light tenor, reminiscent of his American contemporary Rudy Vallee, soon attracted attention and he sang with all the popular bands of the period. Among them were those led by Bert Ambrose and Harry Roy; Roy Fox and Lew Stone; and Nat Gonella and Charlie Kunz.

He achieved national fame - and a claim to being the first "pop star" years before the term was invented - while singing with Henry Hall, Britain's premier broadcasting orchestra leader.

Altogether he made some 8,000 broadcasts, a couple of films and innumerable records, from "Red Sails in the Sunset" to such oddities as the "Daughter of Mother Machree." His best known song, "When Day is Done," became his signature tune when he went solo at £300 a week in the 1930s.

After the war he returned to Wales and took part in many broadcasts before taking over a number of public houses. His trademark was a rakishly tilted tibia which he wore to the end of his days.

He is survived by a daughter.

MR H. de C. HASTINGS
Sir Hugh Casson writes:

So obsessively modest a man as Hubert de Cronin Hastings would be the last person to notice (or even, perhaps, to mind that much) the absence of his obituary from the *Times* of the fact that in 1971 he was awarded the Royal Gold Medal for his services to architecture.

Those of us, however, who knew and worked for him do mind, for it was a welcome recognition of the pioneering and influential work of an extraordinary but, by his own wish, almost unknown man.

Science report
North American duck settles down in Britain

By Gareth Haw Davies

The rapid spread across Britain of the Ruddy duck, a colourful North American escapee, has become one of the most conspicuous ornithological and conservation stories of recent years.

There are now well scattered populations of an estimated 1,800 birds, and the manner in which the duck has colonized vacant habitats so positively suggests it has already become an established member of Britain's avifauna.

The British Trust for Ornithology described the advance of the duck, *Oxyura jamaicensis*, as possibly the most impressive in any bird since the collared dove burst

across Europe from the extreme south-east in the 1930s to reach Britain by the mid-1950s and become a common garden bird.

Ruddy ducks, with their chestnut plumage, white cheeks and blue bill, gather in winter in conveniently stony groups on reservoirs and lakes, making them easy to count.

Three pairs were imported in 1948 from the US to the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge. Twenty unpaired juveniles escaped in 1957, followed by about 70 more in the six years up to 1963. Thereafter, the ducks were regularly recorded on reservoirs and small reedbed meres in Cheshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire and the county of Avon.

The trust's newly published *Atlas of Wintering Birds in Britain and Ireland* records Ruddy duck in 244 10-kilometre squares, whereas its 1976 *Atlas of Breeding Birds* noted the ducks in only 20 10-kilometre squares.

The Ruddy duck first bred in the wild in 1960. Six breeding pairs were recorded in 1965. There were 25 pairs by 1972. The 1975 population, at 300 to 350, had doubled by 1978, reaching 1,800 by 1984 despite losses in the great freeze off 1981-82.

Recent hard winters appear to have promoted its dispersal. In the severe weather of 1978-79 the duck deserted Staffordshire

and moved as far away as Ireland, the Shetlands, Norfolk and Kent. Another dispersal from its central England stronghold took place in 1981-81 when it moved down to Cornwall, Devon and Dorset. It has also expanded into Anglesy, the East Midlands, Scotland and many southern counties.

The Ruddy duck is aquatic. It flies only when it moves from one water to another, feeding on insect larvae and seeds on the water bed. A remarkable feature is the duck's rapid establishment of regular migration patterns within Britain, with large numbers returning in winter to reservoirs and lakes in Avon and Staffordshire from their other breeding grounds.

Frank Johnson at the Commons

An object lesson in being boring

Cairo	1 22 66	Lisbon	1 9 48	Prague	1 4 39	Vladivostok	S 6 42
Cape Tn	3 25 77	Locarno	2 5 41	Rapinsk	2n 1 34	Washington	SI -130
Chiosca	8 16 61	L. Angaur		Rhodes	B 16 61	Wormen	N 18 42
Chicago	A -8 16	Luxemb	8 3 37	Slo de J	1 27 81	Zurich	C 6 42
Ch'church	C 16 61	Madrid	1 4 39	Riyadh	1 17 83		

FRIDAY DECEMBER 12 1986

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1284.7 (-0.8)
FT-SE 100
1634.0 (-0.6)
Bargains
31290 (31309)
USM (Datastream)
129.62 (+1.63)

THE POUND

US Dollar
1.4235 (-0.0015)
W German mark
2.8698 (+0.0070)
Trade-weighted
68.3 (+0.1)

Offer for
Bryant
'derisory'

The £133 million bid from English China Clays for Bryant Holdings is "derisory" and ignores the company's record and prospects, Mr Chris Bryant, chairman of Bryant, said in the firm's defence document.

He claimed that the document demolished ECC's claims to be a more efficient householder than Bryant. It pointed to Bryant's quality and strength, saying that ECC's approach was "incoherent and confusing."

But Mr Bob Carlton Porter, ECC's finance director, said that he did not believe that Bryant had addressed the principal points raised by ECC.

DTI inquiry

The Department of Trade and Industry has named two inspectors to investigate the shareholder membership of Consolidated Gold Fields. They are Mr George Warren, a solicitor, and Mr David Aston, a chartered accountant, both of Deloitte Haskins & Sells.

GUS growth

Great Universal Stores, the mail order, retail and finance group, continued its 36-year record of unbroken profits advance by making £134.4 million pretax in the six months to the end of September.

P&O in talks

P&O is in talks with British Land, the property company, to sell its half share in Euston Centre Properties. British Land owns the other half.

Thorn launch

Thorn EMI, the electricals group, launched a £60 million Eurobond. The five-year bonds, 15 per cent of which went to Swiss investors, rose rapidly to a premium.

Lift off

Air America, the two-year-old US airline which is a quarter owned by its staff, is launching on Monday a twice-weekly transatlantic service from Gatwick to Baltimore-Washington and Los Angeles. Introductory single fares of £139 to Washington and £199 to Los Angeles will be offered.

Dee advance

Dee Corporation, the supermarket group, announced a 30 per cent jump in its interim profits to £78.2 million for the 28 weeks to November 8. Turnover was up by 21 per cent to £2.5 billion. The dividend is increased by 7 per cent to 3p net.

Tempus, page 30

Accord with Treasury on growth

Bank boosts optimism

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The Bank of England is optimistic about the prospects for the economy next year. Growth is re-emerging in all the major economies and should continue, it says in its latest *Quarterly Bulletin*.

The Bank is in accord with the Treasury - gross domestic product to expand by 3 per cent, inflation contained at close to 4 per cent and a current account deficit of between £1 billion and £2 billion.

Output growth has resumed in the major economies after a full earlier this year, with the main impetus coming from stronger consumer spending.

The resumption of steady economic growth abroad, and a more competitive exchange rate, present great opportunities to make progress in overcoming some long-standing problems in unemployment and a declining non-oil industrial base," the Bank says.

Non-inflationary growth is within Britain's grasp, according to the Bank's economists.

The main uncertainties are the supply response of industry to the lower exchange rate and its ability to contain costs. The implication is that if the performance is poor on

these two fronts, the balance of payments deficit could be larger and longer-lasting than is comfortable.

"The extent and duration of the deficit depends on industry's response to its present trading opportunities," the *Bulletin* says. "It would be most regrettable if uncertainties about sterling slowed industry's supply response."

The Bank of England, like the Chancellor, favours stability for sterling.

However, its forecast for world economic prospects as-

sumes a rise in the oil price to \$20 a barrel by early 1988, which could push sterling significantly higher.

The Bank is concerned also about wages growth and the fact that earnings in the public sector appear to be accelerating in order to catch up with private sector increases.

"Any convergence should be towards a lower rate of earnings growth," the Bank says, "so the greatest need is for pay moderation in industry."

The Bank also favours increased flexibility of regional and occupational pay differentials.

Monetary conditions have been tightened, as indicated by the steady exchange rate, slower growth in equity and house prices and the high level of real after-tax interest rates, the Bank says.

While satisfied with the current level for sterling, the economists at the Bank do not believe that the dollar has fallen far enough to correct the huge American current account deficit.

The US current account is forecast to stabilize at \$125 billion (about £88 billion)

Comment, page 25

Investment to rise sharply

Investment by British industry is to rise sharply, according to the Department of Trade and Industry's latest *Investment Intentions Survey*.

Investment is forecast to rise by 6 per cent in 1987 and in 1988.

Manufacturing investment is forecast to rise by 2 per cent next year to £6.95 billion in 1988 prices - its highest level since the late 1970s.

The survey suggests a substantial strengthening of investment prospects.

Messel identifies LCP share buyer

By Lawrence Lever

The Stock Exchange has the name of the purchaser who bought 25,000 shares in LCP on the eve of Ward White's bid for the company.

Reports of the purchase have led to an Exchange investigation to determine whether there are grounds for suspecting insider dealing.

A spokesman for L. Messel & Co, the stockbroker, said yesterday the purchase had been made through Messel for one of its institutional clients.

"The block trade was done for an institutional client, and we have reported this fact to the Stock Exchange," he said.

The spokesman refused to identify the client, but said Messel had given the Exchange the names of the institution and the buyer.

Asked whether the buyer had been dealing on his own

behalf, the spokesman said: "The purchase was made for, and on behalf of, the institutional client."

The Stock Exchange inquiry was requested by Ward White last week after reports in the *Wall Street Journal*.

It is understood that the trade was made at 5.35pm on October 21 through Messel, acting as an agency broker, and that it was executed via Barclays de Zoete Wedd, acting as market-maker.

An Exchange spokesman would say only that the Exchange's inquiry was proceeding.

The hostile bid for LCP by Ward White has intensified. Ward White has raised its offer from about £150 million to £174 million, and taken its stake in LCP from 8 per cent to 29 per cent.

Seaq trading to shut down two hours early

By Richard Lander

Amid all the talk of a global village and round-the-clock trading in international securities, the Stock Exchange's Seaq screen share-quotation system is cutting two hours from its operating times from today.

The exchange said that until the end of January, Seaq will close each day at 6pm instead of the present 8pm. It said the extra two hours in the evening will allow market-makers to

test the way they use Seaq and to train operators to use the exchange's own "level three" personal computer work stations.

An exchange spokesman said the system was little used after 6pm. He explained: "When we set up at Big Bang, 8pm seemed like a good time. Now, everyone seems to want to go home at 6pm, unless they want to train staff or test the system."

Cash card machines top Ombudsman list

The banking bandits

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Cash card machines are causing the public more aggravation than any other banking service, according to the Banking Ombudsman's first annual report.

The Ombudsman, Mr Ian Edwards-Jones QC, said that, of a total of 782 complaints to the new body, 85 concerned disputed withdrawals from cash machines. Customers usually complained that the machine had given less cash than they had sought.

But Mr Edwards-Jones pointed out that, with more than 350 million cash machine transactions annually, it was no surprise that there were "occasional hiccups."

The next most common complaint - there were 58 in the category - was about irregularities in the conduct of bank accounts. This meant that banks had either done something they should not have done, or had omitted to do something for which a customer had asked.

Bank charges came a close third, with 54 complaints. Most of the complaints were either ineligible or were withdrawn, while only 26 had so far reached an arbitrated settlement.

Mr Edwards-Jones said that all but three of these had been



Ian Edwards-Jones: Rise in complaints likely

settled in favour of the customer, although the banks had not admitted to being in the wrong. A total of 63 complaints have been settled or were under consideration.

The Ombudsman was set up by the banks at the beginning of this year to act as an independent arbitrator in disputes between banks and the public in cases the banks' own dispute procedures had failed to solve. The 19 bank members of the scheme have 33 million customers - 99 per cent of all bank customers in Britain.

The cost of the Ombudsman - paid by the banks - was £230,000 during the year, and it will rise to £336,000 next year.



Sir George Jefferson: emphasis on improved service

BT rings in with £1bn at half-time

By John Bell, City Editor

British Telecom is investing a record £2.1 billion on systems and services, with the aim of matching the best telecommunications companies around the world.

"We suffer from an antiquated telephone network and antiquated exchanges and they have to be replaced," Mr Graeme Odger, the deputy chairman, said yesterday when presenting £1,006 million half-time profits.

British Telecom, whose chairman is Sir George Jefferson, has announced its spending programme this year will be 35 per cent higher than it was in 1984, the year the company was privatized.

BT's continuing strength means it is possible to invest more than ever before in improving its service to customers and ensuring the future prosperity of the company for shareholders and staff alike, Mr Odger added.

More than £450 million has been earmarked for modern digital exchanges, which are being installed at the rate of one every working day.

The company has already laid more than 100,000 miles of optical fibre, proportionally more than any other country, enabling faster and clearer calls.

"Our service is already noticeably better than it was in that respect," said Mr Odger.

More than £100 million is being spent on computerizing the directory inquiry and customer service systems as part of a £700 million computerization programme.

About £160 million has been allocated to modernizing the public pay-phone service. There are now more boxes than there were two years ago; more than half have modern equipment and many accept phonecards, BT said.

Many of the technical improvements being introduced have been developed in the company's own research laboratories, which spend £180 million a year on research and development.

BT's half-year figures were 11.5 per cent higher than in the previous year.

Sales increased 14 per cent to £4,614 million.

Shareholders are to receive an interim dividend of 3.35p per share, almost 12 per cent up on 1985.

Wall Street 'enraged' at hi-tech abuses

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Mr John Phelan, chairman of the New York Stock Exchange, yesterday called for sweeping reforms of securities markets to "slam the window" on insider trading abuses.

Mr Phelan offered a blueprint for action in his first Congress appearance since the insider trading cases against Mr Ivan Boesky and Mr Dennis Levine were revealed.

He said that he and his institution were "enraged", and said that technological advances had created some of the conditions for abuses which had existed during the 1920s.

Specifically, he referred to the practices of "risk arbitrageurs", which he described as a form of speculative trading that "certainly raises the spectre of pool operations".

Earlier, in opening the first of a series of Congressional investigations into the insider trading case, Mr John Dingell, chairman of the House oversight sub-committee, said the questions raised this week were similar to those asked 50 years ago.

"At that time, the public was shocked by the revelations of stock manipulations, pools, insider trading and a host of other abuses. We are facing now what appears to be the biggest series of market abuses since the 1929 crash," Mr Dingell said.

He promised to seek legislation correcting the abuses and to provide new resources and authority for the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in the new 100 Congress, which takes office on January 6.

Mr Phelan said the sophisticated electronic systems which now control markets had created "a relatively new phenomenon".

He called for a re-examination by regulatory authorities of the definition of insider trading to close what he called a "structural problem in our system."

He asked that the timespan in which important informa-

tion about takeovers is disclosed be shortened and communicated better to the market and to government.

He urged regulators to slow down the process in which takeovers are executed. This should be complemented by a ruling requiring corporations in takeovers to answer yes or no when queried by the SEC.

"The acceptance over the past several years by the SEC of a 'no comment' response was appropriate for that time but now it may need to be changed," he said.

Mr Phelan called for a full-scale review of the activities and obligations of arbitrageurs in the market place. With "junk bonds", he said the danger which existed was a "concentration of assets" especially with regard to financial institutions.

He said time did not permit a full discussion of the risks posed by the internationalization of financial markets. But added that it was an area which governments and financial officials should examine closely.

Also appearing before the committee was Mr John Shad, chairman of the SEC. He said the case against Mr Boesky should be regarded positively rather than negatively by Congressional officials determined to enact new reforms.

"In 1981, well-known publications were reporting that insider trading was so pervasive nothing could be done," he said. However, the fact that the largest insider trading case in SEC history has been brought against Mr Boesky is proof that the system is working.

Nonetheless, Mr Shad said last week that he would seek a record increase in the agency's enforcement budget to do a better job in patrolling markets.

Mr Dingell said the public's confidence had been severely shaken and must be restored in the new Congress for the market place to perform effectively.

Saudis hold Opec key to higher oil price

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The oil ministers of the 13 Opec nations yesterday in Geneva started their attempt to send world oil price back upwards with Saudi Arabia's new oil minister apparently holding the key to a solution.

The majority of member countries have accepted that output cuts will have to be made if Opec is to achieve its goal of sending prices up to \$18 by January 1.

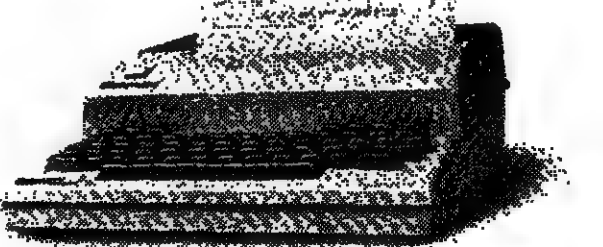
However, Sheikh Hisham Nazer, who replaced Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani as Saudi oil minister, has yet to reveal his country's position.

As the largest oil producers in the organization Saudi will have to cut its output if Opec is to reduce its overall production from its present 17 million barrels a day to nearer the 16 million which the oil industry says is necessary.

Sheikh Nazer refused to be drawn into a public debate on the issue. He hoped that Opec would be in a position to achieve an \$18 barrel price "very soon."

Scrapping the barrel, page 25

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WALL STREET

Blue chips stronger on buyout offer

New York (Reuters) — Wall Street shares were mixed in moderate trading as blue chips drew strength from Owens, Illinois, a Dow average component stock that had received a buyout offer.

The broader market was lower after being hurt by some early futures-related sell programmes.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose eight points to 1941. Declines led advances.

	Dec 10	Dec 9	Dec 10	Dec 9	Dec 10	Dec 9
AMR	56 1/2	56 1/2	FirstEnergy	28 1/2	27 1/2	27 1/2
ASA	38 1/2	38 1/2	Fed Chicago	32 1/2	32 1/2	32 1/2
AT&T	43 1/2	43 1/2	Fed Reserve	54 1/2	54 1/2	54 1/2
Boeing	67 1/2	67 1/2	Fed Reserve	54 1/2	54 1/2	54 1/2
Chrysler	29 1/2	29 1/2	Ford	57 1/2	57 1/2	57 1/2
IBM	124 1/2	124 1/2	FTW	38 1/2	38 1/2	38 1/2
Intel	44 1/2	44 1/2	Gen Corp	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2
Johnson & Johnson	87 1/2	87 1/2	Gen Electric	38 1/2	38 1/2	38 1/2
McDonald's	32 1/2	32 1/2	Gen Motors	42 1/2	42 1/2	42 1/2
Merck	48 1/2	48 1/2	Gen Tech	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2
Microsoft	104 1/2	104 1/2	Gen Time	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2
Motorola	54 1/2	54 1/2	Gen Time	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2
Oracle	44 1/2	44 1/2	Gen Time	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2
Rockwell	44 1/2	44 1/2	Gen Time	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2
Sony	44 1/2	44 1/2	Gen Time	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2
Texas Instruments	44 1/2	44 1/2	Gen Time	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2
Unisys	44 1/2	44 1/2	Gen Time	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2
Walt Disney	44 1/2	44 1/2	Gen Time	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2
Westinghouse	44 1/2	44 1/2	Gen Time	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2
Worldcom	44 1/2	44 1/2	Gen Time	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2
Xerox	44 1/2	44 1/2	Gen Time	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2
Yale	44 1/2	44 1/2	Gen Time	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2
Zenith	44 1/2	44 1/2	Gen Time	28 1/2	28 1/2	28 1/2

US retail sales gain 0.5% to \$122.3bn

Washington (Reuters) — Retail sales in the US rose by \$634 million (\$452 million), or 0.5 per cent, in November, to a seasonally adjusted figure of \$122.3 billion, the Commerce Department said yesterday.

The moderate increase came after a revised drop of \$6.7 billion, or 5.2 per cent, in October. Previously, the department said sales in October had fallen 5 per cent.

Without car sales, which fell \$189 million in November, sales for the month were up \$823 million, or 0.9 per cent, to \$94.2 billion, the department said.

The November fall in car sales came after a decline in October sales of \$7 billion, or 19.9 per cent.

The department said the 0.9 per cent rise in sales, excluding cars, for November was the highest since July 1985 when sales were up 1 per cent.

Retail sales, which had risen for six consecutive months before the October drop, have resumed an upward trend.

Sales of durable goods rose by \$137 million, or 0.3 per cent, to \$47.7 billion after a fall of \$7 billion, or 12.9 per cent, in October.

Sales of non-durable goods rose by \$497 million, or 0.7 per cent, to \$74.5 billion after a rise of \$319 million in October.

Gains in non-durable sales included an increase in sales of \$304 million to \$23.76 billion for grocery stores, as well as a \$39 million gain, up to \$6.9 billion, in sales for petrol stations.

Washington (AP-Dow Jones) — Initial claims for state unemployment insurance fell 14,000 to 350,000 in the week to November 29, the Labour Department said yesterday. The figure stood at 364,000 a week earlier.

In the week to November 22, 2,417,000 were receiving state unemployment benefits, down 206,000 from the previous week's unrevised 2,623,000. The number receiving unemployment benefits as a percentage of those covered by unemployment insurance fell to 2.6 per cent in the same week.

Polly Peck to buy Russell Hobbs in £12m TI deal

By Alison Eadie

Polly Peck International, the fruit packaging, electronics, textiles, and mineral bottling group run by Mr Asil Nadir, is buying Russell Hobbs and Tower Housewares from TI Group for £12 million cash.

Mr Nadir said the acquisitions would be a further step in the company's strategy of expanding internationally.

Russell Hobbs is known for its automatic electric kettles, toasters, fryers, irons and coffee makers. Tower is best known for domestic pots and pans, pressure cookers, slow cookers, fryers, kettles and sandwich toasters.

Polly Peck has been keen for some time to diversify geographically away from its strong dependence on Turkey and Northern Cyprus.



Asil Nadir: 'acquisitions part of an international strategy'

The acquisitions will provide a strong manufacturing base in Britain from which to market the two famous brand names internationally, the company said.

Mr Mark Ellis, joint managing director of Polly Peck, said the businesses would be a

count for only 15 per cent of sales.

The company wants to build more of a presence in Britain. It has some textile manufacturing in the Britain through Wearwell, which has diminished and is no longer large enough to mop up the company's unrelieved Advanced Corporation Tax.

TI said Russell Hobbs and Tower were only small appliance businesses and did not fit with the company's basic strategic direction.

TI is restructuring the company to concentrate on the core areas of specialized steel tubes, specialized engineering, automotive and cycles.

It is keeping its cooking and heating domestic appliances businesses, whose best known names include Creda, New World and Glow-worm.

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Industrial co-ops want more cash

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

A plea for more cash has gone to the Government from the Co-operative Development Agency, which receives aid of £200,000 a year to boost the growth of industrial and commercial co-operatives.

The number of co-operatives has risen in the past two years from 900 to about 1,400.

However, Mr Ralph Woolf, the CDA chairman, gives a warning in the agency's annual report of "opportunities missed and hopes under-fulfilled because of the lack of central finance."

The value in real terms of aid has fallen by two thirds since 1983, he says.

"Problems will not be solved by throwing money at them. But there is a line between profligacy and parsimony which we are ready to tread," he adds.

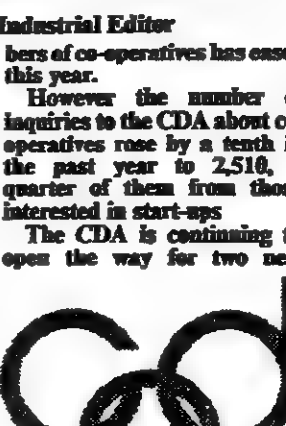
The CDA deserves "radically improved funding," he says. The plea is also aimed at the private sector which has supported the CDA.

Mr Woolf says: "After the scale of our resources and we have the plans and the people to respond."

The rate of growth in numbers of co-operatives has eased this year.

However, the number of inquiries to the CDA about co-operatives rose by a tenth in the past year to 2,510, a quarter of them from those interested in start-ups.

The CDA is continuing to open the way for two new



kind of co-operative. The first, the marketing co-operative, is to help small businesses to market themselves more effectively by belonging to a stronger grouping.

The other is the equity co-operative providing a structure for obtaining risk capital more readily. Four co-operatives are using this structure.

There are now 16 co-operative support organizations which give local help to co-operatives.

BSC buys Dutch steel stockholder

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The British Steel Corporation, which is top of the list for privatization by the Conservatives win the next election, yesterday continued its drive to become a more international company with the takeover of a long-established Dutch steel stockholder.

The acquisition of Eysen Staalwerke of Maastricht, will give BSC an outlet in Europe on top of its one German and three French ones.

A BSC spokesman said that the deal — the price was not disclosed — highlighted the corporation's commitment to provide European customers with a fully competitive service. BSC already operated a major distribution network in Britain, and the Dutch acquisition was a logical extension of marketing policies.

Eysen has the ability to handle carbon and stainless steels and aluminium.

Latest production figures for BSC and the privately-owned steel sector, published today, show that production in the first 11 months of the year averaged 283,000 tonnes a week, a fall of 7.4 per cent on

the 305,000 tonnes in the corresponding period.

However, steel output in November alone was 331,600 tonnes a week, 6 per cent higher than in November 1985.

BSC and the British Independent Steel Producers' Association said that, while production was well maintained in the major steelmaking centres, output for some oil-related products such as seamless tubes and pipes — on which much of the Scottish steel industry depends — remained low.

Meanwhile, the British Scrap Federation reported a marked decline in exports of ferrous scrap.

The federation said that exports this year were unlikely to exceed 3.9 million tonnes compared with 4.5 million tonnes in 1985.

Mr Robert Scholey, chairman of BSC, has been made a honorary doctor of engineering by Sheffield University to honour his "immense contribution" to the British steel industry.

Challenge over life assurance earnings

By Lawrence Lever

The banks and building societies are facing a legal challenge to their practice of not disclosing the amount of commission they earn on sales of life assurance products.

It could, if successful, lead to thousands of investors claiming back commission which they have paid to the banks and societies on sales of life assurance-related products.

And it could also force the Securities and Investments Board, the City watchdog, to revise its controversial proposed rules on disclosure of commission.

The challenge comes from Mr Clive Wolman, a journalist on the Financial Times, who is suing National Westminster Bank for the return of commission that it earned for arranging an endowment mortgage on his behalf with the Norwich Union.

Mr Wolman is claiming that the bank was acting as his agent in arranging the endowment mortgage and was therefore legally obliged to disclose to him both the fact and the amount of commission it was earning.

Mr Wolman's solicitors last week served a High Court writ on the bank claiming return of the commission — estimated to be about £500 — plus interest, damages and costs.

The legal position of an agent earning life assurance commission has not previously been formally tested in the law courts.

The case poses a threat to the £250 million-plus commissions earned by the banks and the building societies from endowment policies.

At the moment, solicitors and accountants are obliged by their professional codes to disclose the amount of commission they earn.

The SIB — which lays down the benchmark for investor protection — has decreed that intermediaries selling life assurance do not need to disclose the amount of commission they earn. Provided that they sell products of life companies party to a voluntary commissions agreement.

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Dividend	£10.9m	£10.7m

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FROM THE HIGH STREET, TO HIGH TECHNOLOGY

RHP profits leap 60%

Pretax profits at RHP, the mechanical and electrical engineering group, rose nearly 60 per cent from £11.1 million to £17.7 million in the year to October 3, on turnover up 28 per cent to £164.1 million.

British activities improved, but overseas subsidiaries declined.

Muirhead, acquired in June 1985, and Grainer, bought this year, boosted the electrical division's operating profits from £3.5 million to £17.7 million. The bearings division made operating profits of £10.5 million, and the fasteners division was up 15 per cent to £296,000 profit.

The total dividend was raised to 5p from 4.25p.

Avon set to raise £10.8m

By Richard Lander

Avon Rubber, the tyres, inflatable craft and industrial polymers group, is making a one-for-four rights call to raise £10.8 million.

The money will be used to refinance three recent acquisitions and provide funds for new growth opportunities.

The rights issue was announced along with the annual figures which showed pretax profits rising from £4.5 million to £6.09 million on turnover of £296.1 million.

Mr Tony Mitchard, the chief executive, described the margins as very unsatisfactory and said the company would continue its restructuring programme which will involve 750 redundancies.

The main thrust of Avon's growth has come from the industrial polymer division whose products include respirators for military personnel and hovercraft skirt systems.

The tyre market, which plunged the group into loss in the early 1980s, remains very tough, while the inflatables division has suffered from a lack of military orders.

Avon shares fell 17p to 369p while the new rights paper is being offered at 335p.

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Good news for retailers

The TFS system for refunding VAT to overseas visitors has now been operating nationwide for several months, and has been fully proven by hundreds of small retailers as well as major groups such as Jaeger, Country Casuals and Dunn & Co. Further recognition of TFS as the market leader in this field is provided by Chester Marketing Bureau and Colchester Chamber of Trade, who have recently adopted the TFS scheme.

- At no cost to the retailer, TFS relieves him of the entire administrative burden, simplifies the transaction at point of sale, and encourages spending by overseas visitors.
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Nat Westminster	11.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	11.00%
TSB	11.00%
Citibank NA	11.00%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

STOCK MARKET

Barclay brothers may sell their 10% stake in IC Gas

By Carol Leonard

The referral of the £730 million bid for Gulf Resources for Imperial Continental Gas to the Monopolies Commission could put an end to the bid once and for all. Talk in the market that the Barclay brothers, who control Gulf, had already sold their 10.6 per cent stake in IC Gas is not true, but such a sale may not be far away.

Mr David Barclay said yesterday: "We still have our stake, but we are reviewing the situation at this very moment."

He said that they have "at least a week" to decide whether to stay with their bid.

● The recovery of a number of diamonds from the Argyle Mine in Australia is causing analysts to look favourably on Ashton Mining, which has a 38 per cent stake in the project. Eldred Halton of Griverson Grant is one of those backing Ashton. Its shares closed at 115p yesterday.

throughout a lengthy Monopolies Commission reference, or walk away.

The demerger plans proposed by the IC Gas board on Wednesday are broadly the same as the plans being proposed by the Barclay brothers.

And the prospect of a company split creating two separate publicly quoted units, one containing its Belgian investments and the other comprising Calor Gas and its oil exploration interests, yesterday boosted the IC Gas share price by 24p to 552p.

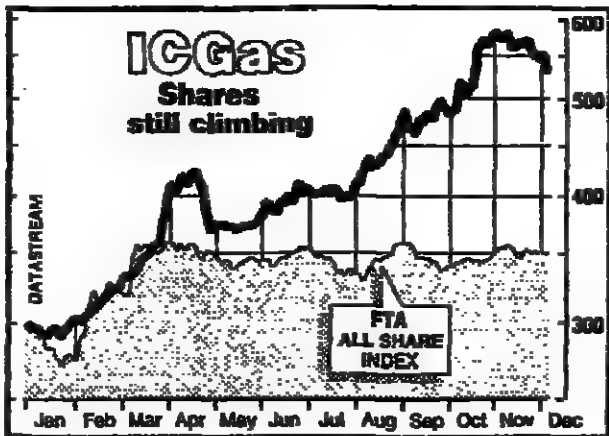
Market men believe that such a split would cause the company's share price to more accurately reflect its asset value and it is this belief that caused yesterday's rise.

If the IC Gas directors go ahead with these proposals, they would virtually destroy the argument being put forward by the Barclays.

Mr Brian Wilmut, the finance director at IC Gas, said yesterday that the company had every intention of going ahead with the proposals, subject to tax clearance.

He explained: "We applied to the Inland Revenue for clearance about three weeks ago and we hope to hear before Christmas."

Some brokers still believe, however, that if the Barclays sell their stake, it may be picked up by yet another predator. They say that if another bid is launched, it will have to be an agreed deal. The company most frequently mentioned as a possible friendly bidder is Petrofina, the Belgian oil exploration



company in which IC Gas has a 7 per cent stake. Petrofina has better asset backing than Gulf and has only minor interests in Britain and so would be more likely to escape a reference to the Monopolies Commission.

Elsewhere, the stock market was quietly firm, although it closed off its best level of the day. The FT-SE 100 index had gained 6.4 points by 10 am but closed 0.6 of a point lower at 1,634.0. The FT 30 share index, up 7 points by 10 am, closed just 0.8 lower at 1,284.7.

The gilt-edged market saw a burst of trading after lunch following the suggestion, in the Bank of England's Quarterly Bulletin, that oil will reach \$20 a barrel by 1988.

Stocks moved ahead by as much as £1 1/4 at the longer end and by £1/2 in the shorts. Some traders complained that a number of firms were trading in gilt ahead of the official 5.30 pm bulletin embargo.

Among blue-chip equities, Grand Metropolitan, the hotels and brewing group, gained a further 14p to 472p, making a two-day rise of 25p, following the article in this column, predicting a consortium bid for the group. More than 8 million shares changed hands in the stock market yesterday. Buyers are being lined up for parts of the business and the bid could materialise anytime between now and the end of January.

Analysts say any predator would be well advised to strike

before the company unveils its results next Thursday.

Globe advanced 15p to 960p - on American buying - BTR 7p to 276p, ICI 20p to 1,107p, while TrustHouse Forte slipped 5p to 177p on talk that it is about to buy a 15 per cent stake in Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Among newcomers, Whiting Office Equipment, the office equipment retailer, opened at a 13p premium on its 135p placing price, before settling back at 146p.

British Gas firmed 1.5p to 62.5p with 161 million shares traded in the stock market, but City analysts say they are likely to ease a couple of pence by next Tuesday, the day

● Shares in Brierley Investments, the master company of Mr Ron Brierley, the New Zealand entrepreneur, made their debut on the London stock market yesterday and made a 10p premium on their 215p placing price. Chase Manhattan Securities is market-maker for Brierley.

when most small shareholders will receive their allotment letters and will thus, for the first time, be in a position to sell.

The allotment letters, telling investors how many shares they have been allocated, are being posted on Monday.

Mr Simon Elliott, an energy analyst at Savory Mill, the broker, says: "The shares have been firm in line with the rest of the oil sector, but come next Tuesday I think we'll see a couple of pence off the price. The 20 per cent argument, that a lot of small shareholders will hold on to their shares because of the 20 per cent yield they'll get from dividends and vouchers doesn't really hold water. Even if the price drops to 60p, that still works out at a 20 per cent profit and they can get it instantly just by selling their shares - without having to wait all year."

The rest of the oil sector was in an optimistic mood as the Opec meeting got underway in Geneva. BP gained 6p to 681p, Shell 3p to 948p, Esso 5.5p to 151.5p.

Market sentiment towards the members of the consortium which was awarded the franchise for Direct Broadcasting by Satellite was initially favourable, although analysts stressed it was difficult to immediately gauge the full implications of such a costly and technically complex project.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Bank of England sings the Treasury's tune

The Bank of England has always resisted the popular notion that it is the Chancellor of the Exchequer's poodle. But the assessment contained in its latest *Quarterly Bulletin* is either a remarkable example of powerful minds in harmony or the result of the Bank's over-indulging in Bonio biscuits.

The Bank thinks that the Treasury's inflation projections are quite reasonable; that British exporters will be sufficiently spurred by the devalued pound to bring the current account back to surplus; and that monetary conditions - since the raising of bank base rates in October - are broadly satisfactory. The Bank finds no argument with the Treasury's forecast of a £1-£2 billion current account deficit next year, or of inflation rising to 4 per cent but not more.

All this is based on a Treasury assumption that the oil price will remain at \$15 a barrel. Later in the *Bulletin*, when the Bank comes on to world economic prospects, we find that the in-house view is that oil prices will rise from the present \$15 a barrel to \$20 a barrel by early 1988, with consequences for inflation, the balance of payments and the exchange rate about which the Bank declines to speculate.

A similar inconsistency comes with the expectation that Britain's trade will respond to the sharp sterling fall that has occurred, but that other

countries' balance of payments are relatively immune. Whereas the 16 per cent fall in the value of sterling should be enough to bring our current account round, the US current deficit remains stuck at \$125 billion (£87 billion) next year, in spite of a 30 per cent fall in the dollar. And Japan's current account surplus is forecast to widen to \$100 billion next year.

There is a definite feeling of *déjà vu* about the Bank's assessment of monetary conditions. Basically, the statistics are rather foggy, partly because of the British Gas privatization, partly because of the switch to calendar month money numbers. Two years ago, when British Telecom came to the market, the money figures were also rendered unreliable. Then as now, the Bank's verdict was that monetary conditions were tight enough. The January 1985 sterling crisis and a 4½ point interest rate hike duly followed.

There is no overwhelming reason why history should repeat itself, but the Bank's grounds for thinking that it will not look somewhat thin. They are that the exchange rate has stabilized, albeit just above its all-time low; that house and equity prices are rising less quickly, which could mean that excess money is going into goods rather than assets; and that narrow money, M0, remains within target range. If the markets scent blood, they may need a little more than this to keep the hounds at bay.

Muddying the waters

Paul Channon, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has muddied the swirling waters of competition policy with his decision to refer to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission the £750 million takeover offer for IC Gas, the group widely known for Calor Gas. It is difficult to reconcile this move with recent referrals which have been appraised almost solely on the grounds of competition rather than the wider issues permitted by the Fair Trading legislation.

For practitioners in the City and companies seeking to grow by acquisition, Norman Tebbit's decision to give preference to competition aspects of a proposed merger was a welcome simplification of a policy which had become confused and confusing. The process had become too much like a lottery and the scope for subjective assessments by panel members, too great.

The IC Gas reference is a retrograde step. It is based not on questions of competition but on tenuous surmise about what might happen should the bidder prove to have over-extended itself in a highly leveraged offer.

Yet, the gearing issue was aired

thoroughly in the commission's recent investigation into the bid for Allied-Lyons by the Australian, Elders IXL. The bidder, Gulf Resources, showed the Office of Fair Trading forecasts which indicated that cash-flow cover for debt service was comfortable following the disposal of IC Gas's Belgian interests.

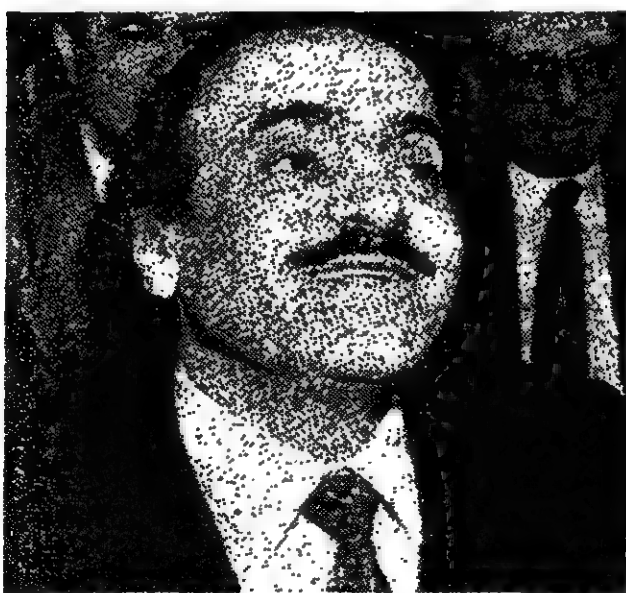
The Government has given in to a sustained campaign by its own backbenchers. This is not the way to administer competition policy. Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director-General of Fair Trading, would no doubt agree, or would he?

He recently told an audience in Scotland: "I do not question that it is right that the primary emphasis in any mergers policy should be on the promotion of, more aptly, the protection of competition. For the most part, competition is the best way of ensuring that markets work efficiently, that firms produce the sort of goods and services that consumers want at as low a cost as possible, and that our industries are competitive from an international standpoint."

Why he decided in favour of referring IC Gas is mildly mystifying.

Opec scrapes the bottom of the \$15 oil barrel

How the future of exploration and employment in the North Sea oil industry may depend on members of the producers' cartel reaching a workable deal to push up prices to \$18 a barrel



Sheikh Hisham Nasser: holds the key to a price rise

As Opec struggles with an agreement to send world oil prices higher, the oil companies are preparing to end a year of unprecedented redundancies and staff reshuffles.

Almost every company has had to tell engineers, drillers and geologists their special skills are no longer needed. With oil at \$15 a barrel, the projects they were working on are no longer economical.

Even those oil companies with no staff directly involved in drilling and production have had to bear a share of the cost. Mostly they are partners in operations with larger companies and each worker's salary cheque is apportioned according to the time he spends on each project.

If a company has, for instance, a 10 per cent share in a project, it reaps 10 per cent of the eventual profits, but has to pay 10 per cent of the costs. That, as some have discovered, means 10 per cent of the redundancy costs involved.

This, the industry's "general and administrative" system, has meant that when Britoil shed more than 700 skilled oil workers, the massive redundancy bill hit some smaller companies.

All eyes are now on Opec to see if its efforts at finding a formula to send prices up again are successful. Higher

prices would mean some projects could be revived and staff kept on.

Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, the Energy Minister, has told the industry he hopes they will "hang on in there" and retain the skills and manpower necessary if Britain is to find new and cheaper ways of transporting oil from the North Sea and from beneath the woodlands of Surrey, Sussex and Dorset.

His efforts to persuade oil companies to keep going are partly due to the need to maintain oil revenues and keep people employed in areas where the unemployment rate is already higher than the national average, and so companies will be able to take part in the bidding for the new round of licences he will put on offer early next year.

He has backed his pleas with action by winning the early repayment of advance petroleum revenue tax from the Treasury.

This will benefit companies such as Britoil and Sovereign, which have large semi-submersible drilling rigs capable of exploring the deeper and more hostile waters to the North and West of the Shetlands.

He has also made concessions in the type of equipment which can be used, while still insisting on as high a level

as possible of British content. This has meant that subsea systems, rather than expensive fixed platforms, can be used. And he has streamlined the planning system for onshore development within the parameters of environmental requirements.

In addition, he has announced that seven onshore exploration licences previously issued under the old ad hoc arrangements have been converted into the new, more tightly-controlled exploration licences.

This means that the search for oil will now take place in Fife, North and South Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire and on the Berkshire-Oxfordshire border.

Mr Buchanan-Smith said: "Operations will only be allowed under these new licences as long as I am satisfied that companies have given due regard to all the planning and environmental issues in the area."

However, the pace of exploration both offshore and onshore will depend on the oil price and that will be determined at the Opec meeting now in session in Geneva.

Iran has called for a cut in production, which would send prices upwards and allow

Opec to move back towards a contract pricing system that would partly help it to achieve its aim of an \$18 price from January 1 and possibly a \$24 price by June.

It has the backing of six of the 13 Opec nations, but the key will be Saudi Arabia's stand. Should Sheikh Hisham Nasser, the Saudi oil minister, agree to a cut in Saudi Arabia's output, the price would rise.

Mr Riwwani Lukman, the Nigerian oil minister and Opec's president, made clear that Opec is all too aware of the cost to date of its policy of defending market share by allowing prices to tumble.

He said that what had happened had been a "very traumatic experience for both producing and consuming countries" and had cost the Opec nations \$50 billion (£35 billion) in lost oil revenues.

However, once again the Opec president attacked Britain for its decision not to trim North Sea output to help Opec restore the present supply-demand imbalance.

"Unfortunately some producers outside Opec have remained hostile to our initiative for a dialogue, even while appreciating that without such a development, which would lead to co-operation in the form of production cuts, market stability will remain illusory," he said.

"Any meaningful dialogue can only take place with an understanding that all producers, inside as well as outside Opec, share the burden of defending a higher price."

James Capel, the stockbroker says: "We still believe it is important not to become too involved in Opec politics and ignore the real world. Even given co-operation all round, we do not believe it is possible for Opec to maintain a stable \$18 oil price."

"If Opec is making a good attempt at \$18, prices might average \$16 in 1987. If not, \$14 or so looks more likely."

David Young
Energy Correspondent

RHP Group plc

1986 Results

* Profits up 60% * EPS up 14%
* Dividend up 18%

	1986 £000 (unaudited)	1985 £000
Sales	164,115	128,292
Profit before interest	19,602	12,602
Interest	(1,929)	(1,530)
Profit before tax	17,673	11,072

RHP is a British group of companies manufacturing precision electrical and mechanical engineering products for a wide range of industries, including aerospace, automotive, communications, construction, defence, electronics, engineering, energy, process control and telecommunications.

RHP operates in the UK through subsidiaries and divisions, with subsidiaries in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, New Zealand, South Africa and the USA and agents elsewhere in the world.

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from RHP Group plc, PO Box 20, Pilgrim House, High Street, Billericay, Essex CM12 9XY.



GUINNESS PLC 1986 RESULTS

Second interim statement for year to 30 September 1986

- ☐ Turnover up 96% to £2,325m.
- ☐ Profit before tax and earnings per stock unit up for the fifth successive year.
- ☐ Profit before tax up 180% to £241m.
- ☐ Earnings per stock unit up 13% to 28.5p.
- ☐ Dividend up 13%.

"The excellent results we have reported today flow directly from the commitment and effort of all the management, staff and employees throughout the Guinness Group."

Ernest W. Saunders
Chairman, December 10th 1986


GUINNESS PLC

THE FACTS BEHIND THE FIGURES.

These latest figures represent the fifth year of solid growth in our businesses and include the first contribution from Distillers.

The pre-tax profit figure is up 180% and is almost six times the one reported in 1981.

On the home market, draught Guinness continued its recovery with a sales volume increase of 14% over 1985's very healthy figures.

The repackaging and successful relaunch of Guinness Extra will have a further favourable impact on sales in the coming months.

Kaliber, our recently developed alcohol-free lager, can also be relied on for future sales growth. It is now selling nationally in Great Britain as well as in the lucrative USA market.

In fact overall, in our key target development markets the USA and Western Europe sales have advanced strongly showing volume growth 30% above the previous year.

With Bells, we have virtually halted the five year decline in the United Kingdom market share.

Distillers has also been the scene of positive management action and strong financial control, resulting in a profit contribution of £134m.

Management of our worldwide spirit sales and marketing operation has been streamlined and will be relocated, outside Central London, in early 1987.

The UK spirits division is to be merged with Bells and will be headquartered in Perth, Scotland, from July 1987.

Improved efficiency has increased trading profit margins to 5% in our retail businesses ahead of plan.

The disposal of non-strategic businesses and assets has already raised nearly £200m in cash.

Our achievements in 1986 provide a platform from which we can realise the enormous potential of our unrivalled portfolio of world brands.



GUINNESS PLC

Invitation to
Tender

Brighton

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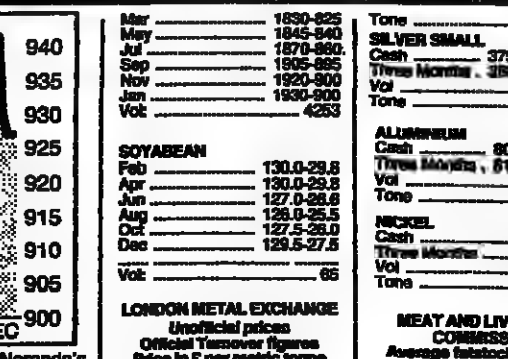
INVESTMENT TRUSTS

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FINANCIAL

TRUSTS

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136	136	0	0	0	136	136	0	0	0	136	136	0	0	0	136	136	0	0	0
137	137	0	0	0	137	137	0	0	0	137	137	0	0	0	137	137	0	0	0
138	138	0	0	0	138	138	0	0	0	138	138	0	0	0	138	138	0	0	0
139	139	0	0	0	139	139	0	0	0	139	139	0	0	0	139	139	0	0	0
140	140	0	0	0	140	140	0	0	0	140	140	0	0	0	140	140	0	0	0
141	141	0	0	0	141	141	0	0	0	1									



Idie	Apr	unq.	96.00
	Jun	unq.	95.20
55.50-57.50	Aug	unq.	55.00
55.00-57.00			
Idie			
25.50-26.50			
25.50-26.00			
1725			
Firmer			
2492-2500			
2550-2555			
500			
Stabler			

Pig Most vol: 5
Live Cattle Contract
p. 100

	Open	Close
Month	96.00	95.50
Feb	100.00	100.50
Apr	95.00	95.50
Jun		

Vol: 5

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

2 per cent

	Wheat	Barley
Month	Close	Close
Jan	109.50	111.50

1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452	2453	2454	2455	2456	2457	2458	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467	2468	2469	2470	2471	2472	2473	2474	2475	2476	2477	2478	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2486	2487	2488	2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498	2499	2500	2501	2502	2503	2504	2505	2506	2507	2508	2509	2510	2511	2512	2513	2514	2515	2516	2517	2518	2519	2520	2521	2522	2523	2524	2525	2526	2527	2528	2529	2530	2531	2532	2533	2534	2535	2536	2537	2538	2539	2540	2541	2542	2543	2544	2545	2546	2547	2548	2549	2550	2551	2552	2553	2554	2555	2556	2557	2558	2559	2560	2561	2562	2563	2564	2565	2566	2567	2568	2569	2570	2571	2572	2573	2574	2575	2576	2577	2578	2579	2580	2581	2582	2583	2584	2585	2586	2587	2588	2589	2590	2591	2592	2593	2594	2595	2596	2597	2598	2599	2600	2601	2602	2603	2604	2605	2606	2607	2608	2609	2610	2611	2612	2613	2614	2615	2616	2617	2618	2619	2620	2621	2622	2623	2624	2625	2626	2627	2628	2629	2630	2631	2632	2633	2634	2635	2636	2637	2638	2639	2640	2641	2642	2643	2644	2645	2646	2647	2648	2649	2650	2651	2652	2653	2654	2655	2656	2657	2658	2659	2660	2661	2662	2663	2664	2665	2666	2667	2668	2669	2670	2671	2672	2673	2674	2675	2676	2677	2678	2679	2680	2681	2682	2683	2684	2685	2686	2687	2688	2689	2690	2691	2692	2693	2694	2695	2696	2697	2698	2699	2700	2701	2702	2703	2704	2705	2706	2707	2708	2709	2710	2711	2712	2713	2714	2715	2716	2717	2718	2719	2720	2721	2722	2723	2724	2725	2726	2727	2728	2729	2730	2731	2732	2733	2734	2735	2736	2737	2738	2739	2740	2741	2742	2743	2744	2745	2746	2747	2748	2749	2750	2751	2752	2753	2754	2755	2756	2757	2758	2759	2760	2761	2762	2763	2764	2765	2766	2767	2768	2769	2770	2771	2772	2773	2774	2775	2776	2777	2778	2779	2780	2781	2782	2783	2784	2785	2786	2787	2788	2789	2790	2791	2792	2793	2794	2795	2796	2797	2798	2799	2800	2801	2802	2803	2804	2805	2806	2807	2808	2809	2810	2811	2812	2813	2814	2815	2816	2817	2818	2819	2820	2821	2822	2823	2824	2825	2826	2827	2828	2829	2830	2831	2832	2833	2834	2835	2836	2837	2838	2839	2840	2841	2842	2843	2844	2845	2846	2847	2848	2849	2850	2851	2852	2853	2854	2855	2856	2857	2858	2859	2860	2861	2862	2863	2864	2865	2866	2867	2868	2869	2870	2871	2872	2873	2874	2875	2876	2877	2878	2879	2880	2881	2882	2883	2884	2885	2886	2887	2888	2889	2890	2891	2892	2893	2894	2895	2896	2897	2898	2899	2900	2901	2902	2903	2904	2905	2906	2907	2908	2909	2910	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[illegible]

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares remain steady

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began Monday. Dealings end December 19. Contango day December 22. Settlement day January 5.
 \$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Where stocks have only one price quoted, these are middle prices taken daily at 5pm. Yield, change and P/E ratio are calculated on the middle price.

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your right share price movements on this page. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total prize money stated. If you are a winner, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Radian Metal	Industrials L-R	
2	Johnson	Industrials E-K	
3	WCRS	Paper, Print, Adv	
4	Redland	Building, Roads	
5	Vaux	Breweries	
6	Hallin	Industrials E-K	
7	Deccater	Industrials A-D	
8	Hunting Assoc	Industrials E-K	
9	General Motor	Motors, Aircraft	
10	Prop Hides	Property	
11	Stand Chart	Bank, Discount	
12	Shell	Oil	
13	Trinity Hill	Newspapers	
14	Midland Somers	Industrials L-R	
15	Independent	Newspapers	
16	Siva	Shoes, Leather	
17	Br Barco	Oil	
18	Ultramar	Oil	
19	Eperton Trust	Property	
20	Tomkins	Textiles	
21	Samuel Perkins	Building, Roads	
22	Lep	Industrials L-R	
23	Maclean (P&W)	Industrials L-R	
24	EIS	Industrials E-K	
25	Home Farm	Foods	
26	Bradford	Property	
27	DKI	Paper, Print, Adv	
28	Alexandra Wwear	Industrials A-D	
29	Reed Executive	Industrials L-R	
30	Robertson Res	Industrials L-R	
31	Asahi Paper	Paper, Print, Adv	
32	Matthews (Bernard)	Foods	
33	Nanley Leisure	Leisure	
34	Jaguar	Motors, Aircraft	
35	Jandore Math	Industrials E-K	
36	Zetcor	Leisure	
37	Cape Ind	Industrials A-D	
38	Burgess	Industrials A-D	
39	Dubilier	Electricals	
40	Beecham	Industrials A-D	
41	Holme of London	Draper, Stores	
42	Geers Gross	Paper, Print, Adv	
43	Ladies Pride	Draper, Stores	
44	Pittard	Shoes, Leather	
45	Times Newspapers Ltd	Daily Total	

Please take account of any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
 Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £16,000 in Saturday's newspaper

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Gain or Loss
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SHORTS (Under Five Years)

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Gain or Loss
100	100	100	100			
101	101	101	101			
102	102	102	102			
103	103	103	103			
104	104	104	104			
105	105	105	105			
106	106	106	106			
107	107	107	107			
108	108	108	108			
109	109	109	109			
110	110	110	110			
111	111	111	111			
112	112	112	112			
113	113	113	113			
114	114	114	114			
115	115	115	115			
116	116	116	116			
117	117	117	117			
118	118	118	118			
119	119	119	119			
120	120	120	120			

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Gain or Loss
121	121	121	121			
122	122	122	122			
123	123	123	123			
124	124	124	124			
125	125	125	125			
126	126	126	126			
127	127	127	127			
128	128	128	128			
129	129	129	129			
130	130	130	130			
131	131	131	131			
132	132	132	132			
133	133	133	133			
134	134	134	134			
135	135	135	135			
136	136	136	136			
137	137	137	137			
138	138	138	138			
139	139	139	139			
140	140	140	140			

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Gain or Loss
141	141	141	141			
142	142	142	142			
143	143	143	143			
144	144	144	144			
145	145	145	145			
146	146	146	146			
147	147	147	147			
148	148	148	148			
149	149	149	149			
150	150	150	150			
151	151	151	151			
152	152	152	152			
153	153	153	153			
154	154	154	154			
155	155	155	155			
156	156	156	156			
157	157	157	157			
158	158	158	158			
159	159	159	159			
160	160	160	160			

UNDATED

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Gain or Loss
161	161	161	161			
162	162	162	162			
163	163	163	163			
164	164	164	164			
165	165	165	165			
166	166	166	166			
167	167	167	167			
168	168	168	168			
169	169	169	169			
170	170	170	170			
171	171	171	171			
172	172	172	172			
173	173	173	173			
174	174	174	174			
175	175	175	175			
176	176	176	176			
177	177	177	177			
178	178	178	178			
179	179	179	179			
180	180	180	180			

INDEX-LINKED

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield	Gain or Loss
181	181	181	181			
182	182	182	182			
183	183	183	183			
184	184	184	184			
185	185	185	185			
186	186	186	186			
187	187	187	187			
188	188	188	188			
189	189	189	189			
190	190	190	190			
191	191	191	191			
192	192	192	192			
193	193	193	193			
194	194	194	194			
195	195	195	195			
196	196	196	196			
197	197	197	197			
198	198	198	198			
199	199	199	199			
200	200	200	200			

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	Gain or Loss
201	201	201	201			
202	202	202	202			
203	203	203	203			
204	204	204	204			
205	205	205	205			
206	206	206	206			
207	207	207	207			
208	208	208	208			
209	209	209	209			
210	210	210	210			
211	211	211	211			
212	212	212	212			
213	213	213	213			
214	214	214	214			
215	215	215	215			
216	216	216	216			
217	217	217	217			
218	218	218	218			
219	219	219	219			
220	220	220	220			

BREWERIES

221	221	221	221			
222	222	222	222			
223	223	223	223			
224	224	224	224			
225	225	225	225			
226	226	226	226			
227	227	227	227			
228	228	228	228			
229	229	229	229			
230	230	230	230			

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

231	231	231	231			
232	232	232	232			
233	233	233	233			
234	234	234	234			
235	235	235	235			
236	236	236	236			
237	237	237	237			
238	238	238	238			
239	239	239	239			
240	240	240	240			

E-K

241	241	241	241			
242	242	242	242			
243	243	243	243			
244	244	244	244			
245	245	245	245			
246	246	246	246			
247	247	247	247			
248	248	248	248			
249	249	249	249			
250	250	250	250			

FRANCE AND LAND

251	251	251	251			
252	252	252	252			
253	253	253	253			
254	254	254	254			
255	255	255	255			
256	256	256	256			
257	257	257	257			
258	258	258	258			
259	259	259	259			
260	260	260	260			

FOODS

261	261	261	261			
262	262	262	262			
263	263	263	263			
264	264	264	264			
265	265	265	265			
266	266	266	266			
267	267	267	267			
268	268	268	268			
269	269	269	269			
270	270	270	270			

312	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16</
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TEMPUS

Worst could be over for Dee share price

Dee Corporation's share price is in a sorry state. Market indignation after the issue of more than 400 million shares for acquisitions this year is only part of the explanation.

Analysts have been scrutinizing Dee's accounting policies — and finding them wanting. They are concerned that Dee's reputation for demonstrable organic growth is tarnished, and that earnings growth is now dependent on taking the benefits of acquisitions above the line, while charging the costs below the line.

Meanwhile, yesterday's interim results confirmed analysts' suspicions that the benefits of buying Fine Fare will take longer than expected to come through, and the shares fell another 4p to 20 1/2p. This decline has probably gone far enough. With Fine Fare, Dee has 11 per cent of the food retailing market, putting it a close third behind Sainsbury and Tesco.

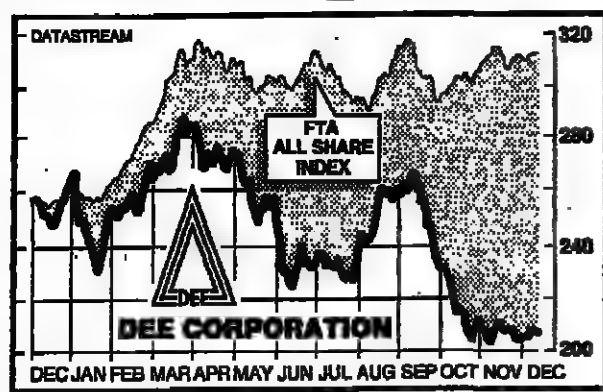
Margins have improved from 3.2 to 4 per cent despite the diluting effect of Fine Fare. Gearing is less than 20 per cent.

While the impact of the Fine Fare integration will not appear until 1987-88, there is no doubt that the economics of scale will be substantial. Several stores will be sold (the profits will be offset against the extraordinary costs of integration), the Fine Fare name will disappear and Gateway will be promoted as a national food chain.

Dee should make nearly £200 million pretax this year, implying a prospective multiple of 11. The shares are likely to languish until City confidence is restored.

Westland
Flying helicopters is a risky business, but so is making them. Admittedly, the turnaround achieved at Westland is impressive, but the return being earned on the core helicopter business is still a third of what it should be.

Although Westland is adamant that it will not take on unprofitable work, the market remains competitive. A £10.1 million write-back from India was eradicated by a further provision on a mystery, £250 million helicopter export contract.



against which £20 million was written-off in 1984-85. The possibility of further provisions should not be ruled out.

The order book is adequately filled for the next two years, but there is a nasty gap to be filled before the EH 101 helicopter goes into full production. Efforts are being made to win additional Ministry Of Defence and export orders.

However, unless a reasonable amount of work is picked up, further streamlining of the helicopter operation may prove necessary. In the meantime, efforts are being concentrated on improving the commercial approach as well as productivity and efficiencies. Ideally, helicopters should not account for more than a third of group turnover. There are no plans to reduce exposure to this market, but the aerospace and technology divisions are expected to grow much faster.

Orders in these businesses are more widely spread by customer-type and are of relatively small value. Delays and cancellations have, therefore, a less damaging effect.

Yesterday's results show a convalescing Westland. There is still some way to go before it makes a decent return on assets. Indeed, gross margins last year slipped from 15 to 13 per cent.

Firing on all cylinders, Westland has the potential to double last year's profits. Existing shareholders might as well stick around as there is a dividend on the horizon, but there is no rush for potential shareholders to buy.

British Telecom
British Gas shareholders waiting for allotment letters

Top-level changes at NatWest

National Westminster Bank: Mr Terry Green is to become a deputy group chief executive from next July. He and Mr John Plaster have joined the board. Mr John Melbourn becomes general manager, international banking from June 1.

Benson's: Mr Anthony Fiddian becomes group financial director.

PA Design: Mrs Dorothy Mackenzie and Dr Bob Whelan join the board. Mr Laurence Gunzi becomes managing director, Mr Roy Gray and Mr Michael Peters joint chairmen, Mr Graham Clancy sales director and Mr Phil Seemey technical director.

London European: Mr David McCallum becomes managing director. John Laing Construction: Mr Brian Hambridge is made director, planning and resourcing, and Mr Gordon Hill director, industrial relations.

Rockware Portland: Mr Brian Webb becomes managing director. Vallances: Mr Paul Guy is appointed chief executive, retailing.

The Design Council: Mr Hugh Lang has been made deputy chairman.

Allegheny International: Mr Thomas Alhai joins the board as chief operating officer.

Microgen: Mr Ian Martin has been appointed to the board as director, UK operations.

Turnover outstripped inflation comfortably at £4.6 billion, or 10.7 per cent higher, excluding acquisitions and 14 per cent up in absolute terms.

Telephone-call turnover grew by 9.4 per cent with international volume providing most of the growth. Total operating costs remained under control, rising 10.4 per cent, in line with income.

At the pretax level profits of £1,006 million were 11.3 per cent ahead and, thanks to a lower tax charge, earnings per share gained 20 per cent to 10.2p.

Dividend is 3.35p, some 12 per cent higher at the interim stage. Full-year earnings of 21p are likely, which means the shares sell on a p/e multiple of less than 10 times.

At this level the shares are cheap but they are unlikely to break out of a narrow trading range until the political clouds disappear.

Mr Tony Hart and Mr Tejan Majumdar become directors. Belhaven Brewery Group: Mr Henry King has been made a non-executive director.

KAE Group: Mrs Ganda Lakshmi joins the board.

600 Services: Mr Ian Stamford has been made managing director.

Aquascutum: Mr Stuart Hollander becomes group

managing director from March 1 and Mr Michael Walker deputy managing director, sales and marketing.

Smurfit UK Print & Packaging Division: Mr Ron Watson is made chief executive.

Forth Ports Authority: Mr Peter Chatterback becomes director, engineering and Mr Wilson Murray director, finance.

Taywood Engineering: Mr Geoff Topping is made chairman and managing director, Mr Gordon Knight and Mr Michael Prokopion directors.

Datapoint (UK): Mr Brian Griffin has been made regional vice president.

Target Group: Mr Robin London becomes group finance director.

Structural Dynamics Research Corporation: Mr Robert Henderson, Mr Ted McCourtney and Mr Donald Young are appointed non-executive directors.

Rauma-Repol Oy: Mr Pekka Laxell joins the executive committee and is made director, shipbuilding and offshore division. Mr Martti Ukkari joins the executive committee and becomes director, engineering division.

Microgen Holdings: Mr Philip Tattersall is made group administration and accounts director.

TSB Commercial Holdings: Mr John Macpherson, Mr Lawrence Evans and Mr Kenneth Cox have been made non-executive directors.

Trident Trust: Major-General Sir John Nelson becomes president, succeeding Bishop Laurence Fleming.

Confederation Life Insurance Company: Mr George Williams becomes vice-president, individual insurance.

Standard Chartered Merchant Bank Asia: Mr Jonathan Pearson has been made managing director.

Lombard Tricity Finance:

Mr Tony Hart and Mr Tejan Majumdar become directors. Belhaven Brewery Group: Mr Henry King has been made a non-executive director.

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Aquascutum: Mr Stuart Hollander becomes group

managing director from March 1 and Mr Michael Walker deputy managing director, sales and marketing.

Smurfit UK Print & Packaging Division: Mr Ron Watson is made chief executive.

Forth Ports Authority: Mr Peter Chatterback becomes director, engineering and Mr Wilson Murray director, finance.

Taywood Engineering: Mr Geoff Topping is made chairman and managing director, Mr Gordon Knight and Mr Michael Prokopion directors.

Datapoint (UK): Mr Brian Griffin has been made regional vice president.

Target Group: Mr Robin London becomes group finance director.

Performer's private rights survive his death

Rickless and Others v United Artists Corporation and Others. Before Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Stephen Brown and Lord Justice Bingham.

[Judgment December 10]

The Dramatic and Musical Performers' Protection Act 1958 conferred on performers private rights of action enforceable in the civil courts and those rights vested in and were enforceable by the performer's personal representatives after his death.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the defendants, United Artists Corporation, Mr Blake Edwards and Lakeland Productions Ltd from a judgment of Mr Justice Hobhouse on June 10, 1985 in favour of the plaintiffs, Elwood Abraham Rickless and Michael Barry Wolf, sons as executors of Peter Sellers, Satchananda Ltd and Motion Picture Factoring SA.

Mr Andrew Bateson, QC, Mr Michael Tugendhat, QC and Mr David Parsons for the defendants; Mr Colin Ross-Munro, QC, Mr Robert Englander, QC and Mr Anthony Peto for the plaintiffs.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said that during his lifetime, Peter Sellers made a series of five films known as the Pink Panther films in which he played the main character, Inspector Clouseau, an eccentric and accident-prone French detective.

The character was based on an idea of the second defendant, Blake Edwards and the first film in the series was made in 1962. When a film was made, more film was shot than was eventually incorporated in the final film released for exhibition.

Footages not incorporated in the final version were called "out-takes" which comprised not only the film which at the time of shooting was found unsatisfactory, but also sequences which, though in themselves satisfactory, were discarded in the process of editing.

"Clips", on the other hand, were excerpts from the final film as exhibited to the public. During Peter Sellers' lifetime, Blake Edwards had the idea of making a Pink Panther film using out-takes from the earlier films together with new additional material.

Peter Sellers refused to agree. He died in 1982.

The film had been very successful and profitable. In 1981 the United Artists Corporation and Blake Edwards decided to make *Trail of the*

Pink Panther which purported to be a feature film starring Peter Sellers but was in fact made up to a considerable extent of out-takes and clips of Peter Sellers' performances in the earlier films.

The defendants tried to get the agreement of the plaintiffs as personal representatives of Peter Sellers, but terms could not be agreed. The defendants took legal advice and then decided to make *Trail*.

It was made by Lakeland Productions Ltd, a company controlled by Blake Edwards and was financed by the United Artists Corporation. The defendants had paid nothing for the use of the material containing Peter Sellers' performances.

The defendants said that they were entitled to make use of the clips and out-takes as the ownership of both the physical celluloid and the copyright in the out-takes and clips vested in them or their associates.

The plaintiffs contended, *inter alia*, that the making of *Trail* constituted a breach of section 2 of the 1958 Act, which made it an offence knowingly to make an offence knowingly to make a film directly or indirectly from or by means of the performance of a dramatic or musical work without the consent in writing of the performer.

Their case was that the 1958 Act conferred on a performer private rights of action enforceable in the civil courts and that those rights had been infringed in that the use of the clips and out-takes involved the indirect use of Peter Sellers' performances.

The defendants contended that the 1958 Act gave performers no civil remedy; that the contracts for the provision of Peter Sellers' services in each of the earlier films contained his consent to the use of clips and out-takes in *Trail*; that they had not "knowingly" made *Trail* without the necessary consents; and finally that the Act did not apply to a film made after the performer's death.

The Dramatic and Musical Performers' Protection Act 1958 made it a criminal offence to make a gramophone record without the performer's consent. The Copyright Act 1956 amended that Act by introducing provisions for the first time the provisions for the protection of film actors now to be found in section 2 of the 1958 Act.

The general rule was that where an Act created an obligation and enforced the performance in a specified manner that performance could not be enforced in any other manner but there were two classes of exceptions to that rule.

The first was where it was apparent that the obligation or

prohibition was imposed for the benefit or protection of a particular class and the second was where the statute created a public right and a particular member of the public suffered special damage.

It was apparent from the short titles of both the 1925 and 1958 Acts that they were passed for the protection of performers and that was a very strong pointer in favour of the Act creating private rights within the first exception.

Although the state of the authorities was not a happy one, there was no authority which had to be treated as binding on their Lordships and they gave effect to his own views so far as performers were concerned.

The defendants further contended that the making of *Trail* after Peter Sellers' death even without his consent would not infringe section 2 of the 1958 Act and therefore could not give rise to any civil liability under that head.

They submitted that unless so limited the 1958 Act would impose an indefinite ban on the reproduction of a performance, that personal representatives of a deceased performer could not give the necessary consent to any reproduction and that even if they could, the power indefinitely to veto any such reproduction was inconsistent with the intention of Parliament.

That argument could not be upheld. The right to give or withhold consent was the same as any other right. A right which was not personal and vested in personal representatives and *prima facie* a right conferred by statute survived death unless there were clear words to the contrary.

The right to give or withhold consent survived the death of the performer and vested in personal representatives. The 1958 Act was passed to protect the performer generally and was not just to protect his interests by prohibiting the reproduction of a performance which might damage his chances of getting further employment.

Therefore the 1958 Act did confer a civil right of action on the plaintiffs and the making of *Trail* constituted a breach of that right. Save in relation to the use of clips from two of the films Peter Sellers did not consent to the reproduction of his performance in *Trail* for the purposes of the 1958 Act.

Lord Justice Bingham and Lord Justice Stephen Brown delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Wright Webb Syren; Herbert Oppenheimer Nathan & Vandyk.

Barrister's part-time income is assessable under Schedule E

Sidey v Phillips (Inspector of Taxes). Before Mr Justice Knox.

[Judgment December 5]

The income of a barrister derived from part-time lecturing was assessable as income tax under Schedule E and not under Schedule D. That income constituted emoluments from an "office of employment" within the meaning of section 181 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970.

Mr Justice Knox so held in the Chancery Division dismissing an appeal by Mr Hugh Sidey from a determination of the special commissioners in relation to Schedule E assessments made on him for the years 1976-77 to 1981-82 inclusive.

Mr Sidey in person; Mr Alan Moss for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE KNOX said that Mr Sidey was called to the Bar in 1951 and had a seat in chambers in Lincoln's Inn. He had not been in general practice since about 1960. He derived part of his income from part-time lecturing on legal subjects for the Thames Polytechnic and ILCA.

In 1976 his tax inspector concluded that that part of his

income was to be assessed under Schedule E and no longer under Schedule D. Thereafter Mr Sidey was assessed accordingly.

The Crown contended, and Mr Sidey accepted, that "employment" was synonymous with Schedule E liability. Thus the question was whether Mr Sidey had at the material times a contract of service with those for whom he lectured and not a contract for services.

The commissioners who heard Mr Sidey's appeal against the assessments had heard evidence and seen the documents that contained the standard terms, conditions and responsibilities of part-time lecturers were set out.

Whether or not those contracts constituted contracts of service was a question of law. However the evaluation of the various elements was a matter of fact.

The commissioners had the function of assessing the various factors in the case and the High Court hearing an appeal could only interfere if the commissioners had misdirected themselves as to the law or had reached a conclusion that was contrary to the only true and reasonable conclusion that could be reached on the facts.

Mr Sidey's argument that it

was open to the appellate court to consider the facts as found and to make up its own mind on the issue was unacceptable. That was not the court's function was clear from the decision of the Court of Appeal in *O'Kelly v Trust House Forte Ltd* (1984) 1 QB 901.

Mr Sidey had gone on to draw attention to features of his work that he said supported his argument that no contract of service existed. He pointed to the facts that he was paid on an hourly basis, that there was a minimum of control over his lecturing activities, that there was a distinct lack of adherence to the terms of his contracts and lastly to the discontinuous nature of his working arrangements.

Notwithstanding those matters it was clear that the commissioners' decision that Mr Sidey's contracts with those for whom he taught constituted contracts of service was a determination that they were well entitled to reach. It followed that the assessments in respect of income derived from that work was properly assessable under Schedule E. The appeal was accordingly dismissed.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Job fairness not apt in selection

Labour Party v Oakley. Before Sir Ralph Kilner-Brown and Mr T. H. Jenkins and Mr K. M. Young.

[Judgment November 27]

A sales and marketing officer whose fixed-term contract was not renewed following a restructuring of the department and who was not given fair consideration for a new job created as a result of the reorganization had not been unfairly dismissed since the fairness provisions in section 57(3) of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 did not apply to selection for the new job that occurred after the act of dismissal.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when considering an appeal by the Labour Party from a decision of a London industrial tribunal last August that the employee, Miss N. Oakley, had been unfairly dismissed.

Mr Ivor Walker, solicitor for the Labour Party; Mr David Ellis for the employee.

SIR RALPH KILNER-BROWN said that the employee was engaged on a year's contract with the proviso that the post would be made permanent if the unit proved successful. The employers had established that a reorganization of the department was necessary.

The employee's job disappeared and a new job was created in its place. The employee applied for the post but was unsuccessful and the evidence before the industrial tribunal indicated that she had never been fairly considered and that her application was prejudged and doomed to failure.

The industrial tribunal said that an employee whose job was disappearing had a right to be considered on equal terms for

the new post and a failure to consider her on equal terms made the dismissal unfair.

The employers submitted that the unfairness in the selection process for the new job was irrelevant to the dismissal from the old job. The employee argued that the fixed-term contract was not renewed following a restructuring of the department and who was not given fair consideration for a new job created as a result of the reorganization had not been unfairly dismissed since the fairness provisions in section 57(3) of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 did not apply to selection for the new job that occurred after the act of dismissal.

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The Lawn Tennis Association's financial performance under scrutiny

Wimbledon surplus controls the year's spending power

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

The Lawn Tennis Association will have 28 glossy pages of reports and accounts to discuss at its annual meeting, to be held at Queen's Club, West Kensington, this afternoon. Ten of those pages are taken up by a mass of baffling figures and relevant notes concerning the money that pours into the LTA and what is done with it — baffling, anyway, to most of us.

With the help of the honorary treasurer, Dennis Carmichael, a patient Scot to whom the money maze is as straight-forward as a motorway, I have tried to grasp a few basic facts about income and expenditure. One salient item is that Wimbledon's surplus of £6,200,848, almost 91 per cent of the revenue, is subject to tax. LTA expenditure reduces the total income of £6,834,263 to a surplus of £3,129,814, which is further reduced to £1,460,168, by a tax bill of £1,669,646.

If still on the scent, you may reasonably ask how the LTA spends £3,704,449. The untidy sum of £3,704,449 is mysteriously listed under "administration and general" but turns out to be nothing more exciting than the cost of running the LTA headquarters — staff salaries, furniture, rates, electricity, and all that stuff.

The £757,139 allocated to "national development, coaching and schools" refers to the cost of regional training (including coaches' salaries), inter-regional competitions, schools, "grass roots activities", and the children's game known as "tennis". If this expenditure produces another Roger Taylor, a one-time Sheffield

Park player, the money may be well spent.

A further £707,072 is devoted to the players who look like making it. These costs include staffing and training the Bisham Abbey national training centre, home international matches, tours and so on. A closely related item of £669,944 concerns tournament costs, inter-county competitions, and the network of "ratings" events.

The allocation to county and club loan funds, plus administrative grants, comes to £467,307. The next big sum is the £269,384 (salaries included) devoted to promotion, marketing, and the sponsorship of pre-Wimbledon tournaments on grass. I forgot to check what happened to the £82,156 listed under "technical and research" but, compared with the other sums tossed about, it is chicken-feed anyway.

The total LTA wage bill, incidentally, is £953,626, a sum which includes social security and other pension costs. The average weekly number of employees is 87. Many of these are to be found tucked away in various corners of the new LTA office block, which has increased "tangible assets" by £696,000.

If all that is not reasonably clear and accurate, the fault is mine rather than the admirable Carmichael's. He considers, by the way, that although there may be reservations about the "tennis" year, the LTA has had a good year financially. The Scot in him came through loud and clear when he stressed the need for the LTA to prepare for a rainy day — by which he meant, one assumes, a succession

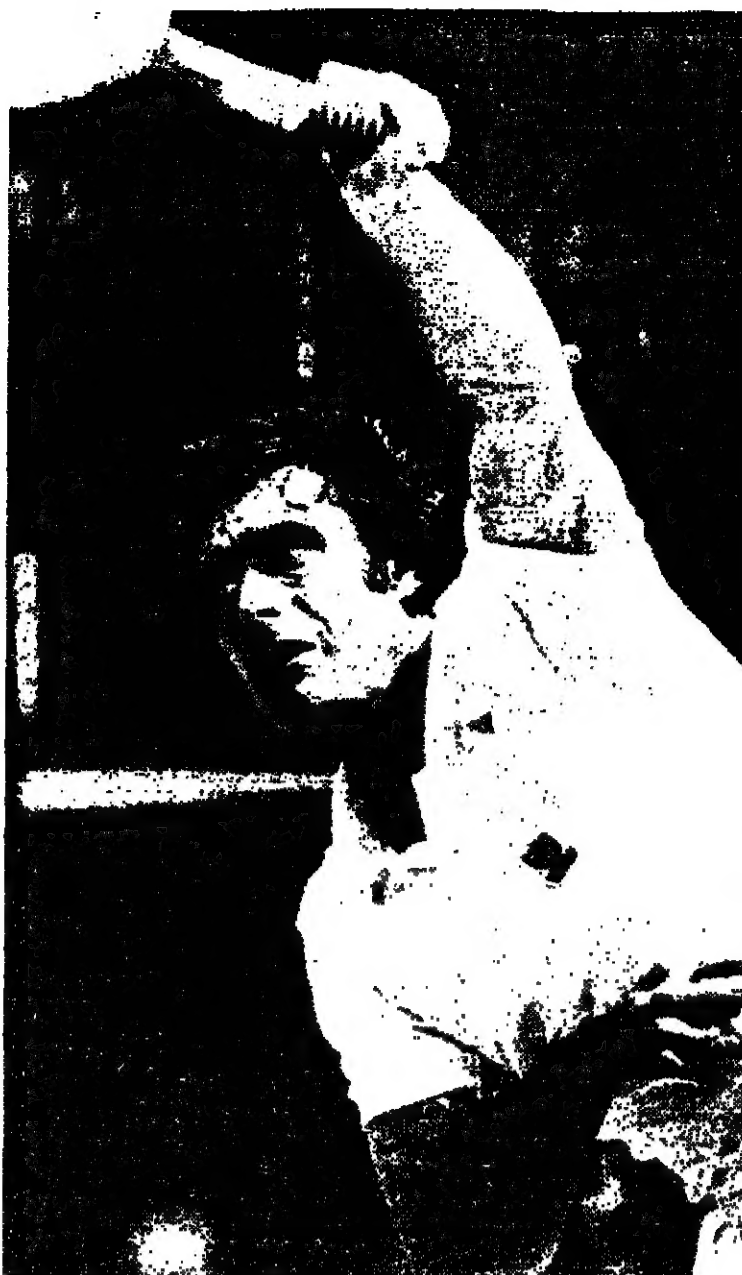
of rainy days during Wimbledon.

"One of the major weaknesses," Carmichael said, "is the lack of reserves. It's all tied up. We have no money to spare for that rainy day. The target of the management committee is to get the invested reserves up to the amount received from Wimbledon. We have made great progress towards that." This referred to the fact that the market value of invested reserves rose from £762,290 to £1,241,079 during the past financial year. Carmichael hopes the figure will be over £2 million a year hence.

Carmichael is an Edinburgh man and it would be interesting to know his private thoughts about a proposal that his home city should have an independently-promoted pre-Wimbledon tournament featuring a few celebrities from the men's circuit. The LTA are cross about that, because of the implied challenge to their own events at Queen's Club, London, and Bristol.

Back in 1967 the LTA defied the ITF by insisting on open competition — discarding distinctions between amateurs and professionals. The ITF eventually fell into line. But there has since been evidence that the ITF, the LTA, and almost any other governing body you care to name consider that the principal of open competition should be restricted to the players.

The idea of open competition between promoters is evidently too horrifying to contemplate. Quasi-monopolies, by contrast, are comforting — rather like weapons in that they are offensive only if you happen to be standing at the wrong end.



Park success: Roger Taylor was discovered at grassroots level

Leicester Council will sponsor first trust fund event

By Roy Moor

Swimming's recent decision to allow competitors to have trust funds, similar to those now operating in track and field athletics, has prompted a swift response from the Leicester City Council.

With the new ruling coming into effect from January 1 the Council have announced that they are making cash rewards available to all who compete in their open short course meeting at the St Margaret's Bath from January 23 to 25.

Invitations have gone out to a number of international champions, both at home and abroad, and one of the first to accept is the Leeds' breaststroke record-breaker Adrian Moorhouse, who admits to being thrilled by Leicester's initiative in setting the ball rolling.

"It is what our sport has needed for a long time," Moorhouse said. "I don't think the opportunity to win money in this way will upset the spirit within our sport. Competitors won't be racing just for the money, they'll be racing for too much; the chance to build a trust fund will just become an added incentive and that must be good for the future of British swimming at international level."

Whereas the Leicester City Council will be underwriting the cost of the meeting they will be supported by a number of local companies, who will make money available for the cash awards by sponsoring individual events, taking programme space, placing banners around the pool and making donations. All entrants who reached this

year's finals at the Commonwealth Games and European junior championships will be given expenses and bonuses to be won include:

- £500 for setting a world record
- £250 for a European or Commonwealth record
- £100 for a British senior record
- £40 for a British junior record
- £30 for an English, Scottish or Welsh senior record
- £15 for an English, Scottish or Welsh junior record

A record for the pool or the meeting will earn a swimmer £5.

The organizers are well aware that at the last top class meeting at this pool 20 national records were broken.

All monies won will be paid to the governing body supervising the swimmer's trust fund.

When Derek Stubbs, the ASA's director of swimming heard of the Leicester development yesterday, he said: "Speaking personally in this case, I welcome the news. These trust funds can not only help to keep swimmers in this country instead of going to American colleges, but also encourage them to stay in the sport longer and reach their full potential. Too many good youngsters give up too soon for want of an incentive of this sort."

Moorhouse's arch-rival, the Olympic and world champion, Victor Davis of Canada, has been invited to compete, but after the hammering he took from Moorhouse in Tokyo recently it seems unlikely that he will accept.

RUGBY UNION: WELSH PROSPECTS ARE FINE IF RIGHT DECISIONS ARE TAKEN

Tidying up on going to ground

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

A bugbear of the English club game is the slow heel from the scrum. This has been the case since the scrum was introduced in the 1880s. It is the slow heel from the scrum which has been the cause of the scrum being called a "dead ball" and the referee's decision to "tidy up" the scrum. It is the slow heel from the scrum which has been the cause of the scrum being called a "dead ball" and the referee's decision to "tidy up" the scrum.

That game, so much of which ended in a heap on the ground, was played shortly after the following lines were published in the *London Whistler*, the newsletter of the London Society of Referees.

"Staying on the feet by those arriving at the tackle seems to be catching on with the players fairly readily, as long as that is what the referee insists on from the start of the match. If the referee does not insist on this and allows a side to go to ground without penalty, the opposition will have no alternative but to do the same and the return of the pile-up will ensue."

"Away from the tackle... if the player falls on a ball in open play then it is strictly illegal for another player to go on top of him. Conversely, the player who goes to ground must immediately play the ball, release it or get up... The freedom for the player on the ground seems essential to protect him from possible injury when he is so vulnerable."

That was written after a couple of months of good weather and hard grounds. Now we are back to mud, and it is a recipe for pile-ups. Last year there were more games with players consciously staying on their feet because English referees interpreted the law strictly.

The committee of the Five Nations met at the weekend and was asked what would happen if a player — usually the scrum-half — chose not to play a ball made immediately available at a scrum. The answer was that play should continue, hence the slow heel from a scrum-half as well as the set scrum.

Quick possession is what half backs — and therefore three-quarters — thrive on. The decision-makers are those who can see the tactical situation, that is, the half backs, not those buried among the forwards.

At the same time, English players revert too easily to staying on their feet, as southern hemisphere players tend to, being more accustomed to ruck than mud. It is a facet of our game which needs to be tidied up, and quickly.

Selectors will have their work cut out

By Gerald Davies

It is much easier to be critical than to be correct, as a sometime novelist and full-time prime minister once said. It could just as easily have been a one-daying selector and a Welsh selector after the Welsh trial last week, knowing that from the squad that will be announced this evening they have their work cut out to select the team for the first international against Ireland on January 17.

What is almost certain is that, even at this distance, the definition as to what is correct will be interpreted differently outside the caucuses of the so-called five selectors. It was ever thus, I suppose, but, unlike more recent years, there does seem to be a wide choice of players from which to choose.

The standard of rugby at club level may be inconsistent, but there are quite a number of young players around who have impressed, have reputations to make and ambitions to fulfil. It is the luxury of a wide pool from which to draw.

By Welsh standards there is an abundance of choice at lock; there is a range of prop forwards and any number of hookers. Once John Davies and Blodwyn Bowen are back, there is an embarrassment of riches in the centre, the wings, too, seem well covered. There is, however, a short supply at full back and with Jones and Davies prominent at half back there is just about adequate cover for them. As with the back row, so it will be for the whole team: the right combination is essential.

It was Ray Gravell, the former Welsh centre, who said, after seeing the trial, that he would love now to be a selector. This turned on its head the common response to a trial match in which those thought to be the favourites were beaten.

Blinded people, while quite happy to turn such an exercise into a parlour game, who doubt they will ever become selectors, would shy away from the actual task. They would much prefer to remain the school from an armchair's comfortable distance away. However, to pick a team in Gravell's singular fashion has an instant appeal, more so than having, like the more democratic, really minded Welsh selector, to persuade another four people to his way of thinking.

Argentina come in from cold

By Chris Thau

A bold and imaginative French project may well result in the emergence of a second Five Nations' championship, this time between France, Romania, Italy, the Soviet Union and Argentina as participants.

Negotiations between the Argentine Rugby Union and the French FA have been expected to be concluded this weekend when Argentina become the 39th members of the Paris-based Federation Internationale de Rugby Amateur. It is not yet clear if Argentina will accept full membership or whether the FIRA executive committee will offer Buenos Aires associate membership on a trial basis.

After the Falklands war, Argentina's ever-increasing contacts with the Home Union have been cancelled and the planned tour, while England and Scotland deferred any decision on contacts with Argentina until full diplomatic relations had been restored.

Following the conflict in the South Atlantic, Argentina, one of rugby union's emerging powers, therefore found themselves in a sort of sports wilderness as far as an era of bigger sponsorship and media attention was concerned.

However, France have concentrated on developing their ties with southern hemisphere countries and Argentina's French connection has been particularly fruitful, with France twice touring Argentina in two years.

The Argentinians, though, felt the need to expand their contacts with the FIRA, a championship planned to be played on a home-and-away basis over a two-year period — should provide them with that much-needed competitive framework.

It is said that all FIRA countries involved — with the possible exception of the Soviet Union — have agreed to the new project. However, with the Russians desperately keen to expand their contacts with the world, they are also likely to agree with the new format. The only remaining question would then be finance.

Both the Soviet and Romanian unions struggle economically, and it is doubtful whether they could afford to travel to and from Argentina.

Yet the Argentinians are generous hosts and they might pay the travel expenses of their Eastern European guests — as they did in 1975 when they played the Soviet Union. It is understood that, if either Romania or the Soviet Union drop out, Spain would be standing by to take their place.

FIRA are slowly becoming a force to be reckoned with in rugby and their membership has increased substantially during the past year. They now have 38 members, compared with only 26 early last year, their latest recruits being Barbados, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Paraguay, the Solomon Islands and Western Samoa.

According to their vice-president, Jean-Claude Bonnier, FIRA are trying to help the game to develop worldwide. The International Board, he said, had concentrated on the laws of the game but would have nothing to do with the competitive side of it.

"So FIRA's operations are complementary to those of the board," Monsieur Bonnier added. "We want to regionalize our competitions. We are trying to launch an American version of the FIRA championship — localized first in South America — and are hoping that the United States and Canada will finally join in."

"We are also trying to set up an African championship and another one in the Pacific area. At the same time, we envisage a European championship, to be used as a qualifier for the World Cup."

Jury reject British protest

From Keith Wheatley Fremantle

White Crusader's chances of reaching the semi-finals of the Challenger series of the America's Cup were slimmed after 11 hours of deliberation the international jury rejected the British protest against Tom Blackaller for changing the forward rudder in mid-race.

Philip Tolhurst, a lawyer and Counselor of the White Horse Challenge, flew from London to conduct the protest. "There is no direct appeal against the jury decision," Tolhurst said. "All we can do is consider whether there are reasons for asking for the case to be re-opened."

A jubilant Blackaller, who conducted his own defence, criticized the way the America's Cup is coming to be dominated by rules experts. "We don't have legal help but we have a boat that has the potential to win the Cup," he said. "The lawyers are going to crawl onto us like flies — like the British did."

When USA damaged her unconventional forward rudder last weekend the syndicate sought the approval of the chief measurer, Ken McAlpine, to try to throw out a fast boat on a technicality. It has not helped

the image when it became apparent that Dennis Conner and Stars and Stripes helped White Crusader gather their evidence. John Marshall, design chief with Stars and Stripes, was a witness for the British.

"Conner turned on me like a dog," Blackaller said when asked his opinion of this international disloyalty.

Blackaller's rhetorical allegation that the British had half-dozen lawyers was widely reported although, in fact, Tolhurst was the only lawyer present at the hearing.

Change the fin. He gave it. The jury found this was a technical breach of Rule 27.2 but dismissed the protest.

"Tom might describe it as nipping but this is a technological argument as well as a sailing race," said Phil Crebbin, the White Crusader technical director, who helped present the case. "Everybody in yachting knows that if you have a port and starboard incident, you are under Rule 36. The technical rules are almost bigger in importance, in my view."

The Australian press have, perhaps predictably, taken the view that the British are bad losers.

Challengers forced into 24-hour wait

Fremantle (Reuter) — Yesterday's America's Cup challenger elimination races were postponed because unusual winds prevented enough courses being laid. A 10-knot easterly offshore wind replaced the regular Fremantle breeze, leaving insufficient room to lay out enough courses to allow the 15-yacht challenger and defender fleet to race.

The postponement of the challenger races delays the agony for at least four yachts with a chance of entering the challenger semi-finals with New Zealand, which has an unassailable lead. French Kiss, in second place, followed by Stars and Stripes, America II and USA, all have a chance to fill the three remaining semi-final berths, with White Crusader's chances having been reduced almost to zero with the rejection of her crew's protest against USA yesterday.

Races postponed until today include Stars and Stripes against French Kiss and New Zealand against White Crusader.

BADMINTON

Management group tightens grip

By Richard Eaton

all but two of the leading women.

Miss Clark's inclusion in that number will, however, be a surprise to those who know her relations with the former England manager, Ciro Cingillo, now Walker International's badminton director, have not always been harmonious. "We didn't see eye to eye most of the time but he has a lot of respect for what I have achieved on the court and I know he is very good at his job in promoting badminton," Miss Clark said.

The 25-year-old Kent player's achievements, which include winning the European doubles

HOCKEY

Experience favours Lancashire

By Joyce Whitehead

lost a match, and only a score draw by Withshire earlier in the tournament separated them.

Staffordshire, known for their sound teamwork, are reliable in defence clubs if Jane Swift, a former international, remains in form — they could disturb the tranquility of their pool with Middlesex and Avon.

Suffolk, who field all but two players from Ipswich, the club which won their way to the last European Clubs Championship, play against Berkshire and Lancashire and in the end it is anyone's guess who will reach the final on Sunday afternoon.

PROGRAMME: Saturday December 13, 9.30am: Middlesex v Suffolk; 11pm: Suffolk v Berks; 10am: Avon v Middlesex; 2.30pm: Berks v Lancs; 4pm: Staffs v Avon; 5.30pm: Lancs v Suffolk; Sunday December 14, 9.30am: Fifth and sixth place play-off; 11am: Third and fourth place play-off; 1pm: Final; 2.30pm: Presentation.

Nottingham hold a remarkable record

Schools rugby by Michael Stevenson

Nottingham High School's 15-9 defeat of Stamford at the weekend left them with the remarkable record of 13 wins from as many matches, the first time the school has achieved such a distinction. Since October 1981 they have lost only two home matches.

The school has nine in the Nottinghamshire 18 Group. Several are extremely tired, having played four games in eight days. Nottingham HS has strength in all departments but Philip Milton, the stand-off and captain, has played splendidly, as well as the two wings, Robert Brierley and Miles Astbury-Crimes, who surely would have aroused more than passing interest from Sherlock Holmes.

St Bees have still only lost to Sedburgh, which is a remarkable record exodus that occurred, following last year's triumphs. Their most recent victories have been against Barnard Castle (19-0), RGS Lancaster (21-6) and RGS Newcastle (40-8). In this match their full back, Howard Graham, scored four tries which brought his season's total to 100 points.

Christ's College, Brecon, have enjoyed a very successful season, winning 11, drawing one and losing one from the 13 matches played and strength in

depth is clearly reflected by the fact that the second XV lost only to Millfield and the third, fourth and under-15 sides were all unbeaten. Christ's last two victories were against Gowerston (22-3) and Wycliffe (32-0).

Success is no stranger to King's, Taunton, and they completed the season with 10 wins and two losses, scoring 285 to 97 points conceded; in addition they lost only one match in the two previous seasons (V Monmouth) and enjoyed an unbeaten tour of Canada before the current season.

Their two defeats were by Blackrock College (4-29) and Christ's, Brecon (14-17) on a day when their goal kicker, Simon Painter, missed five penalties. In the last two seasons he has amassed 223 points.

RGS High Wycombe have had a wonderful run since half-term. They have beaten Richard Hale School (32-3), Windsor Boys (29-9), Watford GS (21-0), Desborough, Maidenhead (42-9), Aylesbury GS (17-3) and St Edmund's, Ware (28-4). They have scored 169 points and conceded 38.

Wellington College have also enjoyed their share of success. They have won eight from the 11 matches played, W J Parks and W R D Waghorn in the centre have been outstanding

and have scored 223 points.

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BOWLS

Kent have the edge on Surrey

By Gordon Allan

Kent, the defending county indoor champions, and Surrey, who won the title in 1978, have made small adjustments to the teams for their second round match in the International Liberty Trophy tomorrow.

David Crocker, who played at home in Kent's first-round win over Hertfordshire, will skip one of the three away rinks at Croydon. For Surrey Ted Barton will skip Alan Winkler's rink at Cypres, Beckenham, because Windsor is touring Australia and New Zealand with an English Bowling Association party.

Surrey, with a much-changed side, had to go to extra ends to beat Sussex by seven shots in the first round. They will do well to have as tight a match against Kent's array of talent.

Kent won the title last winter using a squad of 28 and they are choosing largely from the same pool of players for this year's final. Either Hampshire or Middlesex in the quarter-finals on January 10, when neutral greens come into operation.

Norfolk, last season's best finalists, will play Warwickshire tomorrow and Somerset, who beat Worcestershire by 76 shots in the first round, play Oxfordshire. The final is at Harlepool on April 12.

'TV format' for the world indoor singles

From a Correspondent

The World Indoor Bowls Council agreed a significant departure from tradition when the tournament director, David Harrison, released the 32-player draw for February's Embassy world indoor singles event at Harlepool on the television "set" format, recently popularized by television, is preferred to the traditional 21-up arrangement.

In the opening game of the championship, the holder, Tony Adams of Surrey, is challenged by Sam Wylie, of Ireland, while last season's runner-up, Phil Skoglund, of New Zealand, faces Ian Bruce, of Aberdeen.

The SIS United Kingdom singles champion, Steve Ross from Swansea, will be tested by a young uncapped Englishman, Danny Dennison, a cake salesman from Newton Abbot. Another eventful game is in prospect when the extrovert Italian, Rod Parrella, representing Australia, takes on the nonchalant young Irishman, Michael Dunlop.

The strong top half of the draw also includes Belfast's Superbowl winner, David Corkill, Edinburgh's Willie Wood and Tel Aviv's Cecil Berman. The bottom half, if anything, even stronger.

Four former world champions are clustered together, with David Bryant (England), Jim Baker (Ireland), John Watson (Scotland) and Terry Sullivan (Wales) fighting it out for one semi-final place.

Huge rise in salmon farming has mixed benefit



FISHING

By Conrad Voss Bark

A forecast by John Mackay, the Scottish Fisheries Minister, of an enormous increase in the artificial production of salmon from Scottish fish farms is likely to bring great indirect benefits to sport fishermen. Mr Mackay,

speaking at the opening of BP nutrition's new farm food factory at Invergordon, said that by 1990, production of Scottish farmed salmon might reach 250,000 tonnes a year.

In numbers, that would mean Scotland producing something of the order of 10 to 13 million farmed salmon, in addition to supplies coming from Norway. Salmon would then become a familiar food.

Commercial netmen will suffer, Admiral John Mackenzie, the director of The Atlantic

Salmon Trust, a research organization, says: "The present production of Scottish farmed salmon (about 10,000 tonnes a year) has already depressed the price of wild salmon taken by the nets and any increase would be likely to force some of them out of business."

Rod-and-line fishermen have been jealous of the netmen for years, especially during low water conditions. Then, the salmon bunch in the estuaries, the nets make a killing, and few fish ascend the rivers. Few

Scottish nets take between 250 to 300,000 salmon a year, compared to 60 to 70,000 by rod-and-line fishermen. If nets do go out of business and there are more fish in the rivers, rod-and-line catches and rents will both rise.

Scientists are apprehensive about an increase in farm salmon. During gales and high seas, many escape from their sea cages and if they go to breed in rivers, no one can know what the genetic effects might be on the wild stock.

FOOTBALL

Rangers must learn discipline to add to their tactical skills

By David Miller, Chief Sports Correspondent

Graeme Souness knows enough about football to extract the truth from a night of emotional and all too physical elimination from the UEFA Cup by Borussia Mönchengladbach. The truth is that his team have to find a temperamental discipline to go with the tactical discipline they had shown they possessed in a goalless, bitter second leg.

It needed a brutal encounter with Racing of Buenos Aires in 1967 for Jack Stein and Celtic to learn the lesson, and there were moments on Wednesday night when we were reminded of that shameful World Cup final as Rangers had Munro and Cooper, their left back and left winger, sent off in the last quarter of an hour. It makes one shudder to think what Graham Roberts might have contributed to the evening's action.

An alarming aspect of the performance is that Souness was himself several times warned for the offence for which Cooper was dismissed in the last few minutes: dissent. Souness repeatedly disputed decisions, and he will realise, if he is wise, that his example could be taking Rangers down the wrong road.

Butcher, a man of renowned emotion in the dressing room, was weeping as he left the

field. Was it in frustration or shame?

How often over the 30 years of European competition we have heard the song before. A British team plays away from home, gets involved in a kicking match, loses on both counts, and returns home waiting "we wuz robbed". Rangers were, not without some cause, critical of the referee, though they were far from guiltless. You have to learn to live with referees, and the comments of Walter Smith, the assistant manager, show he has not.

Cooper, who had already been booked for retaliation against a foul by Rahn in the first half, was sent off in the last few minutes, according to Alex Ponnert of Belgium, the referee, for calling him a "dirty German". It was doubly naive of Cooper to suppose that an experienced World Cup referee would not understand what he was saying. McMillan also provocatively questioned almost every decision that went against him.

Ponnert may have made mistakes — Butcher was blatantly pushed off the ball in the penalty area going for a header near the end — but it should be remembered that Ponnert booked three Germans, Rahn, Thiele and Jung.

What Souness needs is not more muscle, in the shape of Roberts, but a central striker with more sharpness than those he already has. Rangers have the potential to be an important club again, but not in the mood they exhibited this week, nor if they miss their chances.

Souness has always been one of the hardest men in international football, occasionally ruthless, and his streak in his character will make it particularly difficult for him as player-manager to limit, rather than encourage similar characteristics in others which we saw in Mönchengladbach.

Neither will Rangers censure their captain, Terry Butcher, the England international, who was involved in remarkable scenes at the end of the game when he had to be restrained from clashing with Borussia players and the referee. "Nothing came of this and we all understand how our captain felt," Souness said.

close enough to see exactly what went on and it is not our players I blame."

While Souness refused to criticise a match official, there is little dispute among Rangers' officials that Ponnert punished the Scots while several West Germans, they felt, escaped a series of illegal tackles on Cooper and McMillan.

The Glasgow club are upset about the treatment meted out to David Cooper, their international winger, in the first half of the game, in which he was ordered off for retaliation near the end.

Yesterday Cooper and Stuart Munro, also sent off for retaliation, were excused by Rangers' player-manager Graeme Souness who said: "As far as I am concerned we are not disciplining the players. I was

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out of the six whose names he took. Rangers should recall that the first grotesque foul was by Dawson, their right back, in the seventh minute, for which he could well have been sent off.

The mature teams in Europe — and for that matter in the World Cup — recognise that there is nothing to be achieved by any action, least of all petulance, over the quality of the referees, and that ill-controlled temperamental outbursts magnify the disadvantages. If Souness cannot, with all his experience with Liverpool, Sampdoria and Scotland, tell his players, then Willie Waddell and the other Ibrox directors should.

It is most of all disappointing that Rangers should have gone out in disarray considering they had, especially in the first half, played some coherent, controlled football, had reduced Borussia's famed attack to a whimper, and had themselves created enough half chances, as at Ibrox, to have settled the match.

McCoist hit the bar after only eight minutes and Borussia often looked a ragged lot.

Souness had brought, ironically, a calmness to Rangers' approach, so that with Bell, Ferguson and Cooper they had controlled the midfield. Cooper's dribbling was often a delight, causing German spectators to applaud.

Asked if there was anything major he felt he had not accomplished during his term of office, Prince Philip said no but then later mentioned that he would like to see the introduction of independent medication control at international shows, so that drug-tests could be performed.

A new independent system would take the strain off the FEI, who are solely responsible at present. Another problem added, was that of fitting in so many championships each year now that the body embraces seven disciplines.

When Princess Anne, one of the busiest members of the Royal Family, was asked how she would fit in her new job she said she would have to wait and see, but added she would make a point of being at the FEI headquarters in Bern for all the Bureau meetings, and would take on as many of the representative jobs as possible.

Earlier, at the last session of the General Assembly, there was dissent over the new FEI ruling on amateurs and professionals. The ruling, in accordance with the IOC eligibility regulations, allows professional riders to renounce their status and become amateurs again if they want to compete at the Olympic Games.

The East German delegation, backed by the Russian Olympic team, was asked how they would fit in the new regulations, saying they wanted to keep the professionals out, at least for the next Olympic Games.

Prince Philip, in reply, said that in the 22 years that he had been president, he had never been a universally accepted definition on the distinction between professionals and amateurs. All the FEI could do, he said, was interpret the wishes of the IOC as closely as possible.

He thought it was only fair that those riders who had become professionals under the old regulations should have the chance now of being reclassified.

Other Olympic matters discussed included the changes in the rules for the individual jumping final and the age of horses competing. The original proposal that they should be a minimum of six years old with the exception of three-day event horses, who should be seven, was challenged by the French Federation, who thought that six was too young.

Prince Philip quickly arrived at a compromise — to which the majority agreed — whereby all horses competing at the Olympics must be a minimum of seven years old.

After a showing of the film by the Korean delegates on the preparations for the next Olympics, entitled *We Are Ready*, Prince Philip closed the meeting by reading out a message about equestrianism and peace — by handing over to Princess Anne the pin which he received from a member of the Irish Federation when he first became president.

United's hopes of progressing any further in the UEFA Cup depend realistically on the return of all their experienced representatives as well as on a favourable draw. "We have had the luck so far to meet sides like us," McLean admits. "Full of industry, rather than full of class."

Anxious to avoid another "long haul" (their journeys have been to France, Romania, and Yugoslavia), he was pleasantly surprised to discover that Dynamo Moscow had been removed from the list of potential opponents. There is not much to choose geographically between the remaining possibilities. All are comfortably within range.

United's success has cost them some £20,000 but McLean has his eyes on a place in the semi-final, "where anything can happen," rather than on a lucrative series of matches in March. He would rather be assured with Guimaraes, for instance, than with Barcelona. At the moment, anyway.

"The hope is to make money, obviously, but that is not always the case in Europe, as we have found to our cost," he said. "But if we make it to the last four, we would be confident of making a profit." At least he can now select Ferguson, his signing from Rangers, who was previously ineligible.

For McLean to realize his ambition, Malpas and Sturrock, both of whom were unavailable on Wednesday, must be fit as well. Yes, when the draw is made on January 24 (to coincide with the presentation of the 1988 European championships in Cologne), the likelihood is that United will no longer be joined by players who are merely workmen.

But time has already almost run out. The deadline for any new acquisition to be permitted to play in the quarter-finals passes on Monday. "I'll be out hunting over the next few days, but the trouble is that up here we are overwhelmed by the big Celtic and Rangers," McLean said.



Williams Boone (left), the holder, and his challenger John Prens, whose struggle for the world rackets title will have a TV audience at Queen's Club

EQUESTRIANISM

A Princess succeeds The Duke

By Jenny MacArthur

The Duke of Edinburgh, who yesterday completed 22 years as president of the Federation Equestre Internationale, told a press conference at the close of the General Assembly that he would be stepping in his shoes as his successor, Princess Anne. "I discovered a long time ago that it was no use telling her what to do," he said.

Asked if there was anything major he felt he had not accomplished during his term of office, Prince Philip said no but then later mentioned that he would like to see the introduction of independent medication control at international shows, so that drug-tests could be performed.

A new independent system would take the strain off the FEI, who are solely responsible at present. Another problem added, was that of fitting in so many championships each year now that the body embraces seven disciplines.

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TENNIS

French double-act find their opponents très difficile

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

A steward checking passes at London's Royal Albert Hall yesterday had a lot of time on his hands and spent much of it reading a booklet, *French With Ease*. As a guide to what was happening on court, the title was only half-right.

Guy Forget and Yannick Noah took three hours and 43 minutes to beat Mike DePalmer and Gary Donnelly 6-7, 6-4, 3-6, 6-5, 7-5 in the Nabisco Masters Doubles.

The French are a civilized lot and it follows that, in general, they are not at their best before lunch — which was when the match began. But, at one o'clock or thereabouts, Forget and Noah — unlike Cederella at midnight — went to the ball.

True, they evaded the peripheral diners, and one sometimes suspected that Gallic dialogues between points had as much to do with food as tennis. "Usually, I joke a lot," Noah said later, "and Guy doesn't like that."

DePalmer and Donnelly were so earnestly and relentlessly conversational that the tennis often seemed to be an irritating interruption. They are a remarkably good team, adding up to slightly more than the sum of their parts.

DePalmer, one of those confusing Americans with two capital letters in his name, is squarely built and holds his shoulders so far back that they are almost behind him. Donnelly is tall and fair, and reached the Wimbledon final with Peter Fleming, who used to do John McEnroe.

Forget is a lean, whipper, right-grave left-hander. Noah is none of that. He has an impish sense of fun, lots of giggling muscles, and when nothing is happening quivers with suppressed energy. To some extent, he is reminiscent of Roy Emerson. One can imagine the beasts of the jungle keeping well clear of men like that.

DePalmer and Donnelly often use the tandem formation, with the server's partner standing on the same side of the court to inhibit cross-court returns. Yesterday, that may have been

Val Gardena (Reuters) — Swiss skiers dominated yesterday's training for the World Cup downhill race tomorrow with Peter Müller leading a Swiss sweep of the top four places, although there was also optimism in the British camp as Martin Bell finished sixth.

Müller, winner of the opening downhill in Las Lenas, Argentina, in August, was the only one of the six to dip under 2min 03sec on the icy Saslong course. Conradin Cathomen, a late starter, came in second, 0.38sec behind Müller's time of 2:02.95, under a sunny sky.

Firmin Zurbruggen, the overall leader and one of the favourites for the race, was Daniel Mahler completed the Swiss dominance with Leonard Stock, the Austrian former Olympic champion, and Bell close on their heels.

Müller, now beaten for the downhill title by Peter Wirsberger, of Austria, last year, said he felt comfortable on the course, which drops 839 metres. "It is a perfect downhill, a great course, although it is bumpy at the start and very icy at the top," he said. "The last two jumps, close to the finish, are difficult as you are already thinking about braking."

The course also seemed to suit Bell, who set the sixth fastest time of 2:04.03. Bell placed 10th in a downhill here last year in the start of a good run of results which saw him gain three other top 10 places.

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BRITISH MASTERS: Regional round: Lambeth 89, Hants and Wiltshire 110.

UNITED STATES: National association (NBA) Philadelphia 102, Indiana Pacers 112; Detroit Pistons 108, Sacramento Kings 105; Boston Celtics 108, New York Jets 98; Milwaukee Bucks 115, New York Knicks 105; Atlanta Hawks 122, Chicago Bulls 95; Dallas Mavericks 130, Portland Trail Blazers 129; Milwaukee Bucks 115, New York Knicks 105; Houston Rockets 117, Phoenix Suns 102; Utah Jazz 112, Denver Nuggets 118; Los Angeles Clippers 101, Seattle SuperSonics 94.

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True, they evaded the peripheral diners, and one sometimes suspected that Gallic dialogues between points had as much to do with food as tennis. "Usually, I joke a lot," Noah said later, "and Guy doesn't like that."

DePalmer and Donnelly were so earnestly and relentlessly conversational that the tennis often seemed to be an irritating interruption. They are a remarkably good team, adding up to slightly more than the sum of their parts.

DePalmer, one of those confusing Americans with two capital letters in his name, is squarely built and holds his shoulders so far back that they are almost behind him. Donnelly is tall and fair, and reached the Wimbledon final with Peter Fleming, who used to do John McEnroe.

Forget is a lean, whipper, right-grave left-hander. Noah is none of that. He has an impish sense of fun, lots of giggling muscles, and when nothing is happening quivers with suppressed energy. To some extent, he is reminiscent of Roy Emerson. One can imagine the beasts of the jungle keeping well clear of men like that.

DePalmer and Donnelly often use the tandem formation, with the server's partner standing on the same side of the court to inhibit cross-court returns. Yesterday, that may have been

Val Gardena (Reuters) — Swiss skiers dominated yesterday's training for the World Cup downhill race tomorrow with Peter Müller leading a Swiss sweep of the top four places, although there was also optimism in the British camp as Martin Bell finished sixth.

Müller, winner of the opening downhill in Las Lenas, Argentina, in August, was the only one of the six to dip under 2min 03sec on the icy Saslong course. Conradin Cathomen, a late starter, came in second, 0.38sec behind Müller's time of 2:02.95, under a sunny sky.

Firmin Zurbruggen, the overall leader and one of the favourites for the race, was Daniel Mahler completed the Swiss dominance with Leonard Stock, the Austrian former Olympic champion, and Bell close on their heels.

Müller, now beaten for the downhill title by Peter Wirsberger, of Austria, last year, said he felt comfortable on the course, which drops 839 metres. "It is a perfect downhill, a great course, although it is bumpy at the start and very icy at the top," he said. "The last two jumps, close to the finish, are difficult as you are already thinking about braking."

The course also seemed to suit Bell, who set the sixth fastest time of 2:04.03. Bell placed 10th in a downhill here last year in the start of a good run of results which saw him gain three other top 10 places.

LEADING PRACTICE TIMES: 1. P. Müller (Switz), 2:02.95; 2. G. Cathomen (Switz), 2:03.33; 3. P. Zurbruggen (Switz), 2:03.88; 4. D. Mahler (Switz), 2:04.03; 5. L. Stock (Aust), 2:04.22; 6. M. Bell (Switz), 2:04.42; 7. N. Wirsberger (Aust), 2:04.52; 8. P. Wirsberger (Aust), 2:04.52; 9. P. Bell (Switz), 2:04.52; 10. D. Cathomen (Switz), 2:04.52.

REVISITING THE DATES: Dec 12: Downhill, Val Gardena, Dec 14: Giant slalom, La Villa — Alps Bada, Dec 15: Giant slalom, La Villa, Dec 16: Special slalom, Madonna di Campiglio.

BRITISH MASTERS: Regional round: Lambeth 89, Hants and Wiltshire 110.

UNITED STATES: National association (NBA) Philadelphia 102

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Edited by Peter Dear
and Peter Davalle

The Scarfe's-eye-view of Gerald Scarfe

As the famed caricaturist does not opt, verbally, to represent himself as a Jekyll and Hyde in his self-profile Scarfe on Scarfe (BBC2, 9.30pm), I feel free to do so. The snag is that although Scarfe does make an attempt to distinguish between his two personalities by dressing the nice one in a dinner jacket and giving him a shave and putting his unshaven alter-ego into paint-splashed jeans, we are finally left wondering which of them would rise to his feet if told: Will the real Gerald Scarfe please stand up. And when, in the film's closing moments, we see Scarfe frenziedly destroying the vast and violent autobiographical mural on which he has been working throughout, there is considerable ambiguity as to which of the two Scarfes he is found guilty at the end of a brief trial in which he is both judge and

CHOICE

jury. What is more, it is unclear what the offence was. Nevertheless, although the exact destination in Scarfe's voyage of self-exploration is never reached and we do not learn the true nature of the savage fuel that powers the engines, the journey itself is full of eyeball-scorching interest. En route, he seeks directions from past and present editors for whom he has worked, and from magazine and film colleagues with whom he has collaborated. I don't know whether a psychiatrist could have uncovered anything of interest about this complex man (or men), but it might have been rewarding to find out.

I should also like to know what the average psychiatrist, who depends on the one-to-one consulta-

tion for a living, thinks about A Change of Mind (Channel 4, 10.30pm) because this documentary series is about communal psychotherapy. Helpers, and those needing help, sit in a circle. The help-needs unburden themselves of their problems; the helpers cautiously encourage them to open more doors and let in the fresh air, the fellow help-needs, who know only too well the difference that a touch of the hand can make. Are there to provide a measure of comfort when the tears begin to fall, as they inevitably do. The series has now been running for five weeks, and I don't believe that, during the whole of that time, it has once claimed that its case histories ended in a miraculous cure. But, as a layman, it strikes me that there have been innumerable signs of hope and, in any case, it has been a fascinating experi-

ence to watch the chains begin to drop off these deeply troubled captives and to recognize that some of their traumatic experiences (tonight's involve a mother, a son and a daughter) are, with variations, reflected in our own lives.

Radio choice: Jenny Ward's feature Dr Crippen's Trial (Radio 4, 11.00am) tries something new — and impressively brings it off. At each stage in the reconstructed Old Bailey proceedings, a legal or forensic expert steps up to the microphone and obliges with some essential piece of analysis. What we lose in continuity, we gain in authority. I also recommend David Rudkin's vigorous version of Euripides' Hippolytus (Radio 3, 9.10pm). It deserves its repeat.

Peter Davalle



Mrs Thatcher, according to Gerald Scarfe: Arena, BBC2, 9.30pm

VARIATIONS

BBC1 WALES 5.55pm-6.00pm Wales Today 6.05-7.00pm Sportsday 12.45pm-12.55pm News and weather SCOTLAND 10.55am-11.00am Sport 11.05am-11.20am Reporting Scotland 1.30pm-1.45pm News 1.50pm-1.55pm Late Night and Centre 10.30pm-12.00am Film: From Hell to Victory (1979) 12.15-12.30pm Photos 12.30-12.35pm Weather NORTH IRELAND 5.55pm-6.00pm Today's Sport 6.00-6.05pm News 6.05-6.10pm Midweek 12.45pm-12.55pm News and weather ENGLAND 5.55pm-6.00pm Regional news magazines.

BBC2 WALES 5.55pm-6.00pm Wales Today 6.05-7.00pm Sportsday 12.45pm-12.55pm News and weather SCOTLAND 10.55am-11.00am Sport 11.05am-11.20am Reporting Scotland 1.30pm-1.45pm News 1.50pm-1.55pm Late Night and Centre 10.30pm-12.00am Film: From Hell to Victory (1979) 12.15-12.30pm Photos 12.30-12.35pm Weather NORTH IRELAND 5.55pm-6.00pm Today's Sport 6.00-6.05pm News 6.05-6.10pm Midweek 12.45pm-12.55pm News and weather ENGLAND 5.55pm-6.00pm Regional news magazines.

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SPORT

Yorkshire smear campaign ends career for Boycott

By Martin Searby

Geoff Boycott, sacked by Yorkshire last September, has turned down the offer of a two-year contract with Derbyshire, a decision which virtually ensures his 25-year first class career is over.

The opening batsman, aged 46, refused to sign after an undignified attempt to start a whispering campaign against his continued membership of the Yorkshire committee, upon which he represents the Wakefield constituency.

Not happy with dismissing their most productive batsman, successful captain since 1969 and controversial character, some members of the committee, among them the Viscount Mountgarret, the president, expressed the view that if Boycott continued to play first class cricket he should be disbanded from standing for election. There were even moves afoot to change the rules, drawn up less than a year ago, to effect his removal.

Boycott, who is a firm supporter of the new £425,000 indoor cricket school of eight nets which will be opened next

door to Headingley next month under Doug Padgett, the county coach, was understandably annoyed at the club's attitude and said yesterday: "The committee are obsessed with Geoff Boycott and seem totally preoccupied with getting me out of the club. They would be better occupied putting their energies into other things, having lost a major sponsor and £20,000 and facing a £40,000 deficit on the current account."

"There is no doubt that some members tried to stir up potential opposition to me if I played for another county and I have told Derbyshire that, although I am very grateful for their offer, I am unable to accept it."

The former England batsman and still the leading Test run scorer is not likely to join any other county and added: "I have no other plans at the moment."

While he is in Australia for the Ashes series, the election will be held for his Wakefield seat where he is opposed by Dr John Turner, a heart surgeon, whom Boycott beat 203-147

three years ago. "My first love has always been Yorkshire cricket and, as any Yorkshireman will understand, it is an emotional thing. I want to be involved with the cricket school and basically carry on serving the club."

Half the costs for country's largest cricket school of 14,300 sq ft has been provided by the Sports Council, Leeds City Council and the former West Yorkshire Metropolitan authority. But while firms are asked to sponsor each net at £12,500 for five years and Yorkshire's 11,000 members will be asked to buy a brick at £10 each to ensure the school's future, the future of one of their favourite sons is less sure.

Only one thing seems certain: the Yorkshire public will certainly take a dim view of the latest attempt to expel Boycott who undoubtedly has a great deal still to offer the first class game. It seems churlish to sack a man and then prevent him from playing elsewhere on penalty of being thrown out of a club he served for a quarter of a century.



Handing over the reign: Ian Botham (right) with some advice for James Whitaker

Strain finally tells on Botham

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Adelaide

One ball, thrown at him underarm from no more than a few yards at the Adelaide Oval yesterday morning, was enough to decide Botham that the strained muscle in his rib cage would prevent him from taking any part in the third Test match against Australia starting here this morning. His place at No 6 in the order was given to James Whitaker, this being the only change from the side who won in Brisbane and drew in Perth.

England seem to have decided some days ago that in the event of Botham being unable to play they would rather weaken the bowling than the batting when replacing him. Gattling is therefore

left with a four-man attack, augmented by his own occasional medium-pace. It is not the first time England have gone into an Adelaide Test match with only four regular bowlers. They did it in 1946 when Bedser, Edrich, Wright and Yardley had only 10 in support.

The temperature then seldom dropped below the century; but Bedser bowled Bradman for naught. Yardley bowled 31 economical eight-ball overs in Australia's first innings and England drew the match.

The time had come on this present tour when Whitaker, through no fault of his own, was relying on one of the other

batsmen being injured if he was to get a Test match. When Botham broke down in Perth Whitaker's form, and Slack's, became instantly more relevant.

Basing his views of the way Whitaker has made his runs against Somerset, Peter Roebuck already rates him as the best batsman in the England party. That is some reference. He could be a lot less fortunate, too, in the time and place at which he finds himself.

England team

B C Broad, C W J Athey, M W Gatting, A J Lamb, D I Gower, J J Whitaker, T C Richards, P A J DeFreitas, J E Emburey, P H Edmunds and G R Dillley.

playing his first Test match. He has already made a hundred on the ground, against South Australia last month (this influenced his selection ahead of Slack); it looks a very good pitch, and it is not as though he will be greeted by Thomson at one end and Lillee at the other.

Even so, it is quite a situation for a young man, the heir of the party, to find himself in. "One thing for sure, the bloke taking Botham's place has mighty big shoes to fill," Border said. Whitaker sees himself not as Botham's substitute, but there to do his best by his own lights. He is ambitious, confident and, in the best sense, calculating. And should he do well it will be an incentive to

the senior players, particularly Lamb, whose average in 23 overseas Test matches is only 21.

Whitaker is 24. He went to school at Uppingham and before that at Malis in Yorkshire. The last Uppinghamian to play for England was Agnew, and before that A P F Chapman. There were other long ago: Gregor MacGregor, who played in the Adelaide Test match of 1892; S S Schultz, a fast round-arm bowler, who played at Melbourne in 1879; and Clem Wilson, brother of Rockley (of Winchester College fame and himself a Test cricketer) won a couple of caps in South Africa in 1899.

It was said that Clem Wilson owed a lot, while at Uppingham, to the brilliant coaching of H H Stephenson, who had played for All-England before England played. Whitaker came under the supervision of Maurice Hallam when he was at Uppingham.

I mention that Whitaker's parents are in Adelaide, because of the experience of Bob Barber's father, who, having landed in Australia in the early morning of January 7, 1966, went straight to the Hill at Sydney, queued to get in and watched his unknown son make 185. With Gower and DeFreitas, as well as Whitaker, playing today, Leicestershire have three representatives in the same England Test side for the first time.

Four-day matches voted in by board

By Ivo Tennant

Four-day county championship matches will be played for the first time in England in 1988, the Test and County Cricket Board decided at their winter meeting at Lord's yesterday. Each county will play six four-day matches, in addition to 16 over three days. This format will be kept for at least three years.

The change, described as "radical" by Alan Smith, chief executive-designate of the TCCB, was overwhelmingly backed by the first class counties, who voted 15-2 in favour. The NatWest Trophy and the Refuge Assurance League will remain unchanged but in 1988 the Benson and Hedges Cup (should they still be the sponsors) will have no quarter-finals. Only the winners of each zonal group will go forward.

Smith, who said there was no reason to suppose Benson and Hedges would withdraw over this curtailment of their competition, said he expected the four-day matches would be played at the beginning and end of the season, mostly on weekdays. Each county will play three matches on its home grounds and three away. The changes are seen as a compromise over the Palmer Report, which advocated eight four-day matches and fewer one-day matches. "We would hope techniques and abilities would improve through four-day cricket and that there will

be a greater premium on bowling sides out," Smith said. No decision has been reached over possible changes in the bonus-points system or the covering of pitches.

Next season, the Combined Universities side that will contest the Benson and Hedges Cup will encompass players from all British universities, although Oxford and Cambridge will continue to provide the venues.

The TCCB are to make two proposals to the International Cricket Conference for consideration at their meeting next summer. They suggest that for Tests, bouncers will be limited to one an over, with only one warning given. Support for that is expected from Australia. The other proposal is that bowlers' run-ups be limited to 30 yards.

Recommendations to phase out the ruling which permits counties to play two overseas players if they were registered before November 28, 1978 will be discussed further next year.

In 1988, England will play five Test matches and three one-day internationals against the West Indies and one Test match against Sri Lanka.

Brian Shaw, general manager of Britannic Assurance, sponsors of the County Championship, said: "We welcome the experiment of four-day cricket as a very positive development."

Witherspoon spars with all the King's men

From Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent, New York

Tim Witherspoon, the World Boxing Association heavyweight champion, took such an ear-bashing from Don King, the promoter, for questioning the deal King's son Carl secured for him from King senior, that his ears will continue to be assailed by the stridently accusing words long after the fists of James Boncrusher Smith have finished their pounding at Madison Square Garden tonight — that is if Witherspoon's title defence is not knocked out by legal wrangles that have been going on for the last two days.

The bout was still in doubt late last evening because of a row over contracts between Witherspoon and Don King, his manager and the promoter.

After two days of negotiations the two parties were as far apart as before and Witherspoon's lawyer, Dennis Richard, said: "There is no fight unless the promoter makes a new contract. King maintained that the contract was valid in the state of New York and that he had no intention of releasing Witherspoon from it."

For almost two hours on Wednesday morning, when he should have been preparing himself mentally for his title defence, Witherspoon had to listen to the outpourings of the most powerful man in boxing from the sidelines of a Press conference. The champion then had to attend negotiations between his lawyer, Dennis Richard, and King's men that lasted well into the evening.

Talking to an empty chair

The last time the champion's chair was empty at a King Press conference was last April when Holmes refused to attend. King, with his usual flair, kept talking to the empty chair. "All right, champ? You hear that, champ?"

This time, with his £1½ million show on Friday night and his multi-million dollar world heavyweight title unification series in danger, he unbowed himself. Looking distinctly pale because of a violently rude interruption by Mitch Green, a fighter, who chased King out of the Garden's Hall of Fame into the kitchen screaming "I'm going to break your neck," he castigated his champion, the Press, and those who tried to stop the rise and rise of Don King "from sub-zero." He even raised Witherspoon's fee from \$250,000 to \$300,000 to make the differential between the fighters a little more respectable. Boncrusher is receiving \$230,000.

King is an accomplished speaker. What he says does not always make sense but you know what he means. "There are piranhas who circle a fight camp... Witherspoon has so many friends telling him what to do, Einstein would have to battle them off with a Freudian concept... You think a lawyer is a big bad guy whose going to pounce upon me and

get me to give away my money... I've got a \$1.1 billion nut and that includes the party I'm going to throw after the fight, if there is a fight... You got \$30,000-\$40,000 worth of tickets sold in the box office — that shows you how popular the boxers are. Unless this Press conference sells tickets, not the fight, you are going to have nobody in the Garden but you and me... No more lovey dovey arms around the shoulders."

It was just the stuff for the troops but hardly for fighters. King dug deep into American constitution, the Bible and Shakespeare, so much so that when Witherspoon's attorney rose to speak he too opened with the quote from the heavyweight from Stratford-on-Avon: "The lady doth protest too much," he said.

While the Shenanigans of this week had left Witherspoon mentally drained, by the end of Wednesday evening he had gathered himself. His close friend and head trainer, Slim Robinson, said: "If the fight goes on, no way can Timmy lose to Boncrusher because Timmy is not fighting Boncrusher now, he is fighting Don King. I know it has been a strain for him but he's in good shape and will beat Boncrusher again."

The last time Witherspoon had a row with King was three years ago. Witherspoon said: "I am so mad I did not train at all. To hell with them. Either I will knock him out or I'm in trouble." Witherspoon knocked out Tillis in one round.

But his second trainer, Whit Lowery was sceptical about the outcome of the fight. He believed that because Witherspoon's original opponent, Tony Tubbs could not fight because of a shoulder injury Witherspoon should have gone through to beat Mike Tyson in the heavy-weight series. "Why should Timmy fight Boncrusher again?" he said. "He has already beaten him. A fighter has got to have something to shoot for. Boncrusher is nothing to shoot for. It could be a bad fight for Timmy on Friday."

Best class opposition

Witherspoon, who's thought to be the only person who can give Tyson a fight, even beat him, should prove too experienced for Smith. Witherspoon has met better class opposition. He beat Greg Page to win the WBC title, lost it to Pinklon Thomas, and won the WBA title from Tubbs.

Smith is a realist. He realizes he has much to learn but has developed a confidence in himself after three straight wins against Mike Weaver, Jesse Ferguson and David Bey. Under the direction of the former world middleweight champion, Emile Griffith, he hopes that he can cause yet another upset in this year of upsets.



Witherspoon



Smith

Age: 29
Height: 6ft 3in
Weight: 233½ lbs
Reach: 77in
Chest (normal): 43in
Chest (expanded): 45in
Biceps: 17in
Forearms: 14in
Waist: 25½in
Calf: 16½in
Neck: 17½in
Wrist: 9in
Fist: 12½in
Ankle: 9½in
Record: 27 bouts, 25 won (17 knockouts), 2 lost.

Age: 31
Height: 6ft 4in
Weight: 228½ lbs
Reach: 82in
Chest (normal): 42½in
Chest (expanded): 44in
Biceps: 18in
Forearms: 14in
Waist: 26in
Calf: 17in
Neck: 18in
Wrist: 9in
Fist: 13½in
Ankle: 9in
Record: 23 bouts, 18 won (13 knockouts), 5 lost.

Graham is next

By George Ace

Herol Graham, the European middleweight champion from Sheffield and leading contender for Marvin Hagler's world title will head the bill at the King's Hall, Belfast, on Saturday, January 17 against Charlie Boston, from New Jersey, who recently stopped Errol Christie in eight rounds in London.

Boston has only lost three fights out of 15 and is rated in the top five by both the WBA and the WBC. The bout will be over ten rounds.

Graham, who boasts an unbeaten professional record of 37 wins, 20 of them inside the distance, has a point to prove to Belfast boxing

followers. On his only previous appearance in the city he outpointed a nondescript American 12 months ago and was most unimpressive.

On that occasion Graham's opponent was a trainee chef, Sandeline Williams who, with sporadic bursts of aggression that were never enough to carry the fight, proved a troublesome opponent.

It will be the first King's Hall promotion by the Eastwood organisation for 15 months and is a measure of the determination to keep boxing alive in the city even without former world featherweight champion Barry McGuigan.

Four years old.
Seriously underweight
for her age.
Scavenging for food
where she can find it.
And she's English.



With parents who refused to acknowledge that she even existed this child was being slowly and deliberately starved. Here in England.

Fortunately we found her in time. Yet without your donations we'd have been powerless to help.

£15.48 can protect a child for two weeks. And that's the sum we're asking for now.

If you can't afford quite that much, all donations are gratefully received.

I want to help protect a child and enclose my cheque or postal order:

£15.48 ☐ £30.96 ☐ £47.98 ☐

Account and Visa card holders may debit their accounts. No.

Expiry date: BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Please send your donation to: Dr A. G. Gifford, Ref 2170, NSPCC, FRIESTON, London EC1B 1QQ.

To protect the child's identity the face has been changed.

Hallett and Hendry break new ground

By Sydney Friskin

Mike Hallett and Stephen Hendry, the crowd's new favourites, became the latest aspirants for the £4,000 highest-combined-break prize, in the Hallett-Hendry world doubles championship at Northampton yesterday.

In their 17-frame semi-final against John Virgo and Kirk Stevens, Hallett made a 106 clearance in the fourth frame and Hendry 48 in the sixth for a total of 154, which beat the 152 by Steve Davis and Tony Meo. At the interval yesterday, Hallett and Hendry led 5-2.

Hallett's 106 enabled him to square the match at 2-2 and pull back the advantage Virgo had established with breaks of 54 and 30 for a 2-1 lead.

Hendry and Hallett had some of their best moments in the fifth frame, in which breaks of 35 by Hendry and 34 by Hallett shot them into a 3-2 lead, which they soon extended to 5-2.

In the process, there was that crucial 48 break by Hendry and a 71 by Hallett, whose fluency throughout the afternoon captivated the audience.

Davis and Meo, the holders and winners on three previous occasions, must prepare for a game of patience when they meet Dennis Taylor and Terry Griffiths in the second semi-final today.

Jimmy White and Alex Higgins had put their own cards on the table all too late on Wednesday night and were beaten 5-4 in the quarter-finals after they had come back from 1-4 to 4-4.

SNOKER

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Next year's Tour of Spain cycle race will be increased by 250 kilometres to 3,900 km with entries up from 170 to 200. The 23-stage event starts in Benidorm on April 23, finishing in Madrid on May 15.

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Marathon cash

More than £500,000 will be invested in next year's Mars London marathon by Tandem Computers. The company were named yesterday as official computer sponsor for the race for the second time.

Tandem Computers Inc, the American parent company, are to sponsor the Los Angeles marathon for the first time in 1987.

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